The Long Island FISHERMAN

35¢

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

JULY 14th, 1977, ISSUE No. 26

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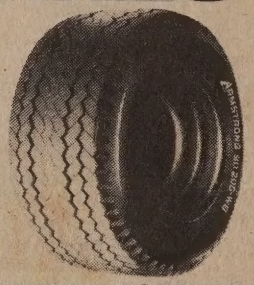

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 26 JULY 14th, 1977

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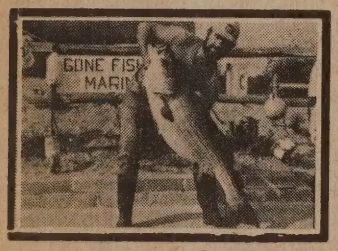

About the Cover—

L.I. Fisherman contributing author Ron Onorato reels mohawked cow bass at Montauk during the last two weeks at Montauk Point. This 61¾ lb. striper was the largest of the 27 bass *OVER* 30-lbs. that Ronnie took both casting and trolling big Danny Plugs during that period. Ron kept the gang at Gone Fishing Marina awake nights with an endless procession of bass to weigh in.

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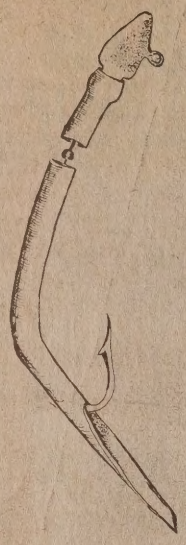

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★ EDITORIAL ★

When Will We Learn?

How many fluke have you caught this year? Has it been a good year? As good as last year? The reports that we have received, plus our own experience, would indicate that there are far fewer fluke than last year, yet there appears to be plenty of bait to attract them in all their usual haunts. Our single fluke trip to Montauk was a dismal disappointment. At a time of the month of June when we have clobbered the fluke in years past, we picked only five fluke under perfect conditions.

How many sea bass have you caught this year? Has it been a good year so far? As good as last year? Once again our experience and the reports that come into the office indicates that the quality of sea bass fishing is not up to last year. Why?

Well, nobody likes an "I told you so," but we did just that at winter hearings held by the National Marine Fisheries Service. We told them that their proposed "window" area on the Continental Shelf would overlap an area on the Shelf that is 50 to 55 fathoms deep, and is a known wintering ground for fluke, sea bass, and porgies. Porgies, however, may winter in slightly deeper water, especially during severe winter conditions. We remember that last winter was a severe one and, therefore, it is possible that the porgies spent the winter on and over a different piece of bottom than the sea bass and fluke.

This 50 to 55 fathom area had been previously set aside as a "no-no" harvest area for the Russians. The Russians signed an agreement with us during the mid-1960s and it paid off for us when fluke and sea bass began to make a startling comeback. Strangely, both our own Department of Environmental Conservation and The National Marine Fisheries Services admitted that the 1960s bilateral agreement with the Russians had been instrumental in the return of these two species. Even more difficult to explain was their "c'est la vie" attitude. National Marine Fisheries scientists as much as said; "We agree that the harvest ban in that area has been beneficial, but we're going to let them harvest in that area anyway." When we pressed them further, they told us that this area is very productive and that we couldn't keep them out of the productive offshore areas once we pushed them beyond 200 miles. GOOD GRIEF! WHY NOT?

What is it that we owe them that we should allow a proven management agreement to go by the boards? You know that there are so few reliable management approaches, and yet we just threw this one to the wolves.

So, "we told THEM so!" The stocks of fluke and sea bass are down dramatically. We say this with confidence because observations are consistent from one end of our reading area to the other. Sure, there are anglers here and there who make a killing on either, or both, species—but these are few and far between. There is a tremendous tendency for a fisherman who scores well now and again on a particular species, to believe the fish to be abundant and cooperative on hook-and-line strategies. Don't be misled. Do you remember that there were no weakfish in the 1950s and for most of the 1960s? Well, we took many weaks during those "lean" years. Should that have indicated to us that weakfish were plentiful? Indeed not.

But the quality: do many anglers score consistently? Does the fishing news repeatedly indicate "hot" fishing for a species at such-and-such a place?

We at The Fisherman are convinced that the harvest of foreign nationals in the 50 to 55 fathom window, has made significant inroads in the stocks of sea bass and fluke. Furthermore, we call upon the Regional Fisheries Management Councils to look into this matter immediately! Marine anglers number over 60 million, and we spend billions. Surely it is important that the fish we seek be managed in such a way that they will continue to please on their summer inshore grounds. Even if one were to accept the premise that we have some responsibility to allow foreign nationals to harvest fish protein (which we do not accept, incidentally), then we must certainly draw the line where the activities of foreign nationals interferes with the domestic commercial fishery and/or the recreational fishing activities of our marine fishermen.

William A. Muller

Why your line should glow when you're fishing for bluefish.

The better you see your line, the better you can control it. When you have to cast quickly to a school of marauding bluefish, good line control will get your plug right into the thick of them. You can guide your lure more accurately in heavy surf and around jetties or rocks. And when you're trolling or fighting a blue from a boat, being able to see your line is the easiest way to avoid getting tangled in other lines.

That's why Du Pont invented the line that glows.

To give you better control, Du Pont invented *Stren*® fluorescent monofilament. The patented glow of *Stren* is actually in the line. It's activated by the sun's ultraviolet rays. From dawn to dusk. Even on cloudy days. Underwater, where UV is filtered out, the glow is deactivated.

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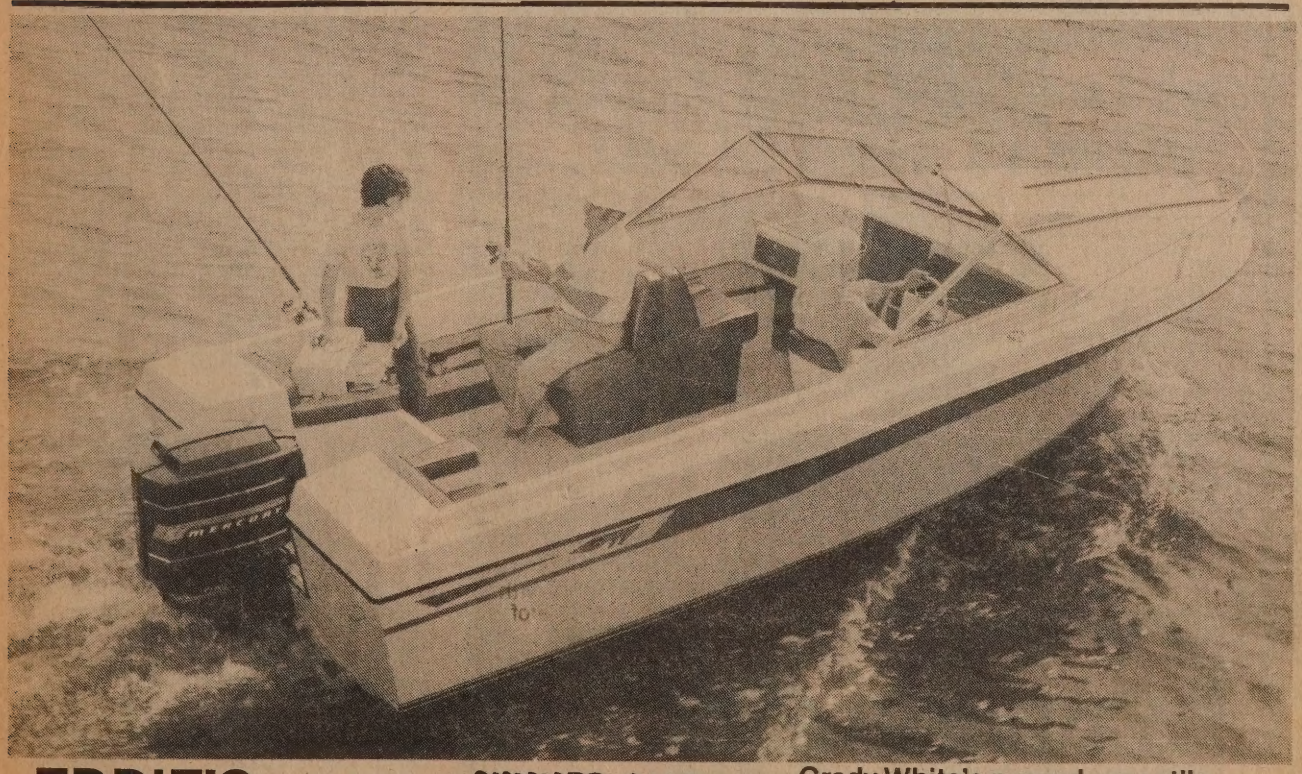

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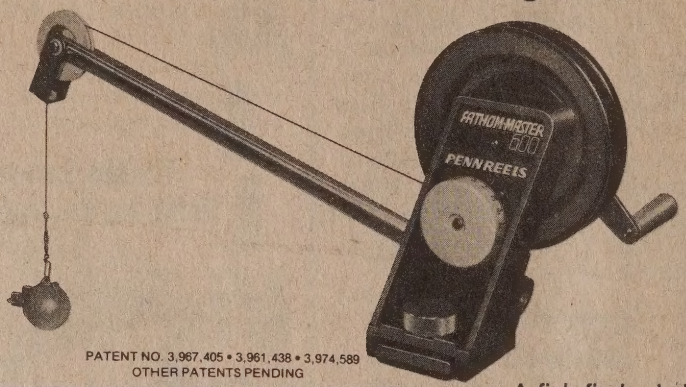

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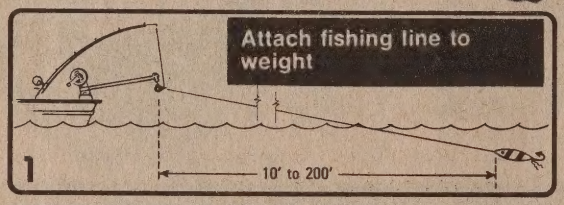

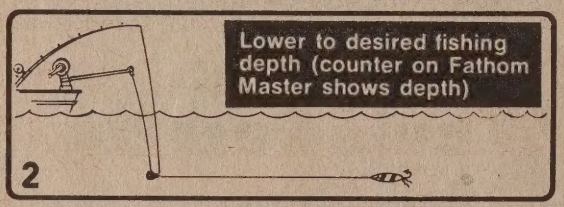

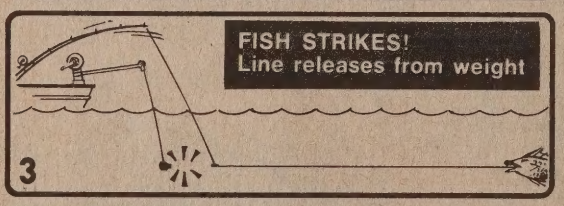

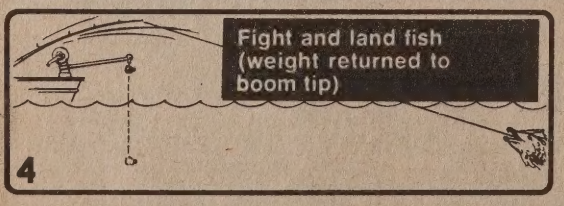

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Insect repellent, suntan lotion, and diesel fuel on the hands, may result in the change in the balance of properties in nylon monofilament fishing line, according to a new round of exposure tests just completed at the DuPont Company's fishing line laboratory.

The tests, involving seven common skin preparations plus diesel fuel, showed that there was little risk to tensile strength and elongation—properties that underlie shock resistance and breaking strength. But the knot strength of line could be reduced from five to ten percent in some extreme cases.

The current tests were prompted by the onset of hot weather fishing conditions where these personal products are present on the skin and likely to be transferred to the line by the hands. Diesel was included because of its film-forming tendency on deck and rail surfaces following refueling or as a result of engine maintenance.

The small, but measurable, decline in knot strength was the result of reduced ability of the line to resist cutting into itself. All knots have some tendency to cause line failure in this fashion. The overhand knot causes the most severe cutting action, reducing line strength by 25 to 40 percent. A fishing knot, such as the Palomar, is most successful because it can be tied consistently with little or no reduction in break strength. Both overhand and Palomar knots were used in the next tests. All samples, regardless of how long the exposure, showed measurable reduction in knot strength. Typical results for a dry line knotted with the highly successful Palomar knot and measured to break at 12.7 pounds would, if coated with a popular brand of suntan lotion, drop to 12.3 pounds. When coated with diesel and tested on the same basis, breaks were produced at 12.1 pounds and with one brand of insect repellent, at 11.6.

Measurements were made after 15 minutes and 24 hour exposure intervals. There was no discernible increase in the effect for longer exposure.

NEW LITERATURE ON DIGITAL DEPTH SOUNDER AVAILABLE

New literature on WESMAR Marine Systems Division's Digital Depth Sounder, the DDS600, is now available, announces the company. The full-color brochure describes uses and features of this unique depth sounder, and includes detailed specifications. According to the brochure, the DDS600 has a range of 599 feet, or 99.9 fathoms. Depth is displayed in a bright Numitron readout, and a switch permits depth to be presented in either feet or fathoms. Accuracy is stated to be + 1/2 foot or 1/20 fathom.

Adjustable sensitivity and the variable depth alarm help both in fish location and in navigation. The variable depth alarm covers the full range of the unit in both feet and fathoms. Operating frequency of the DDS600 is 135 Khz. + 5%. Power requirements are 11-16 VDC. For a copy of this new brochure, contact WESMAR Marine Systems Division, 905 Dexter Avenue North, Box C19074, Seattle, Washington 98109.

235 HORSEPOWER - NEW FROM JOHNSON FOR '78

A 235 horsepower outboard, the world's most powerful production outboard, tops the 1978 line ofSea-Horse engines from Johnson Outboards.

The Waukegan, Illinois manufacturer has also introduced a 4 horsepower outboard, with extra reverse thrust, called the Sail Master.

The new 235 heads up a trio of six cylinder outboards that includes a 175 hp outboard and last year's king of the water — a 200 hp model.

The new long shaft 4, Johnson officials said, was added to the lineup as power for smaller boats with tall transoms. The new engine serves equally well as auxiliary power for smaller sailboats and powerboats.

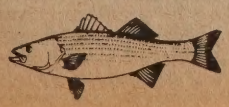
The Sail Master, based on Johnson's popular 9.9 horsepower series, with its 8-inch prop, is said to generate 100 per cent more reverse thrust than Johnson's standard 9.9 model.

All of Johnson's 1978 outboards, 6 hp and up, have an overboard pump indicator which emits a stream of water, convincing proof to the boat operator that the water pump is working.

Johnson Outboards has put a button on the control handle of its Trim'N Tilt models to let the driver change the trim of the boat and the speed of the boat with the same hand. With this button the driver "trims" the engine while underway by manipulating the button with his thumb. Although the thumb is "occupied", the right hand is still free to change the throttle setting and the left hand can maintain a safe grip on the steering wheel.

You don't find a choke switch on the 1978 electric outboards from Johnson. The Waukegan, Il. manufacturer has built the choke right into the key switch. All you do is push the key straight in. You can choke the engine and turn the key all with the same hand. Don't worry about forgetting. There's a reminder printed right on the Johnson key switch.

For 1978 Johnson's combination of temperature-and pressure-controlled cooling has been extended to include all models, 25 hp and up. At idle and low speeds, when the motor is relatively cool, the temperature snesor allows it to warm up quickly. At higher speeds the pressure part of the system takes over, increasing water circulation to assure cool running throughout the power range.



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FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

BLACK SEA BASS

Centropristis striata

THE SEA BASS RETURN! I caught sea bass when I was a boy, but that was in the 1950s. We used to row a small boat out from the beach into Long Island Sound and fish in about ten feet of water among the rocky glacial deposits. The fish that we caught were big, and there were many two-pound fish. However, the quality of the fishing took a nose dive in the 1960s, and I didn't catch a single sea bass for over ten years. Fond memories of solid fishing action and great eating made me eager to sample the revitalized sea bass fishery at Montauk. Needless to say, I was very surprised that the fish we took were very small. After all, isn't Montauk the land of the giants? Half-pound fish were a little disappointing. Scott assured me that our poor luck was simply a matter of arriving at the wrong tide on the wrong day. Where have I heard that one before?

BLACK SEA BASS, OR JUST PLAIN SEA BASS, range from Massachusetts to North Carolina. The best fishing for this species usually occurs in the waters off Long Island, south to North Carolina. At times, this species is caught as far south as Florida; however, they seem to wander into tropical habitats only when cold winters push water temperatures below normal.

SEA BASS ARE EASILY IDENTIFIED! The sea bass is a stout bodied fish with a large head and big fins. The skin is basically black, and they have large scales. Coloration varies both with the season and the sex of the fish. Small fish (probably females) are dark brown, while larger fish may be coal black, irridescent black, or purplish black. The belly is white or silvery, and there are commonly a number of scattered white spots. The spots are most common to the dorsal fin. Large males are often an irridescent indigo at spawning time.

SEA BASS ODDITIES! Ever take a real close look at the eyes of a sea bass? The large eyes reflect an eerie red color when the sun catches them just right. Kind of makes me feel that I'm looking into the eyes of Satan. The topmost ray of the caudal fin (tail) is also a little bizarre. This ray is long and stretches far behind the animal. As an ornamental, it is impressive, but I can't figure out any practical significance. Most fishermen don't really notice this, but the pectoral fins of a sea bass are enormous. The pectoral fins (the ones by the side behind the gill covers) have rounded tips, and the fin begins behind the gill cover and extends back to the anal fin. The dorsal fin is divided into two portions. The first contains ten spiny rays, while the second portion contains eleven rays—three spiny rays followed by eight soft rays.

A SPECIALTY OF CHINESE EXOTIC COOKERY. You would think, based upon the discussion up to this point, that the sea bass is a grotesque fish, but instead they are beautiful. Whereas most fish become dull and very similar after death, the sea bass becomes an ornamental, as well as a delight to the taste buds. The combination of colors and elaborate fin anatomy, make this fish an ideal candidate for gourmet presentation at the table. The very best Chinese restaurants offer their patrons a spicy sea bass dish that comes to the table whole, garnished extensively with parsley and glorious vegetables. The sea bass is as it was in the water with fins stretched out with the pride of a peacock.

NOT A BIG FISH! Most sea bass that are caught by hook and line weigh about one pound. However, on offshore grounds, the fish may average about two pounds. The all-tackle world's record sea bass was taken in Nantucket waters, May 13, 1951, and weighed eight pounds! That humpback fish must have been impressive! There are a number of three, four, and five-pound sea bass caught each year in local waters, but these big fish usually go to the sharpies who know precisely how to fish long forgotten shipwrecks and unknown bottom humps. At Montauk, one legendary bottom fisherman goes to great lengths to protect his secret spots. He employs many elusive tactics. These include leaving the sea bass when they're biting hot and heavy, at the first sign of an intruding boat. We've tried following him from the front (a strategy that Scott Simons created), but somehow he manages to leave us floundering in fog, a sudden squall, or preoccupied with big porgies. Scott swears that this character has deliberately taken us to one of his better porgy holes in order to distract us.

SEA BASS ARE NOT WORLD TRAVELLERS. Their migration routes are basically inshore-offshore. They winter in that now-famous 55-fathom window off the Continental Shelf, seeking out water temperatures of about 46 to 47 degrees Fahrenheit. Actually, sea bass will spread out quite a bit on the Shelf, and can be found between the 30 and 70 fathom line. The severity of the winter weather will dictate how deep they go. Deep ocean water tends to be warmer in winter than the surface and so, during unusually cold winters, they'll travel out as far as 70 fathoms.

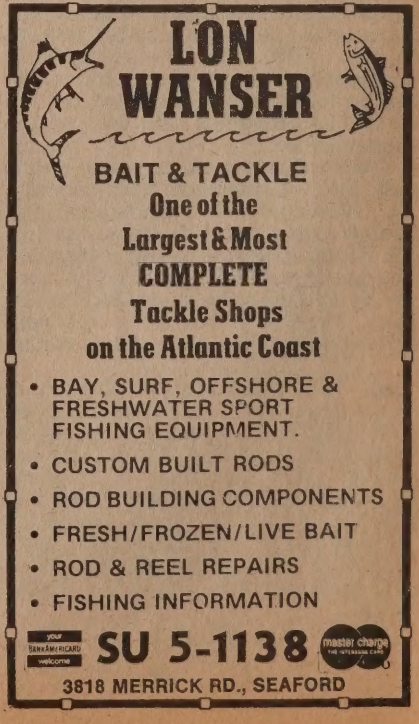
SPRING AHEAD AND FALL BACK! Sea bass usually arrive on the inshore grounds during the first few weeks of May. If the weather has been mild, they'll arrive early, and if it has been on the cold side, they may not show up in numbers until the end of May. But by June they are entrenched. Sea bass can usually be caught from June into the latter part of October or early November, depending upon how rapidly the fall weather turns chilly, and upon the number of coastal storms.

ROCK DWELLERS! Sea bass prefer rough bottoms. Rocky areas are ideal, because there is usually an abundant supply of invertebrate food for them. They can also be caught on general hard bottoms, around pilings, reefs, and shipwrecks.

SPAWNING. The best available information suggests that sea bass spawn on the inshore grounds during May and June. Samples of fish taken in shallow water during those two months indicate that many of the fish contain ripe gonads. In addition, the males display secondary sex-related color changes. We are not sure how long the eggs float around before they hatch, but a guesstimate would place the developmental time at a couple of days.

SEA BASS CHANGE SEX! Judging by recent newspaper headlines you might think that only humans can undergo sex change. Not so! Sea bass have been doing it for centuries and, unlike humans who must spend a great deal of money to effectuate a change, the sea bass doesn't pay a cent. Young fish are females. Gradually, they become hermaphroditic (having both male and female sex organs). This is not a terribly unusual phenomena even among other **Serranidae**, or sea bass. Perhaps some of you have noticed the sex change occur among your tropical fish. Platy fish and swordtails do it all the time. In any event, the larger fish are males with their beautiful irridescent colors and majestic tail fin spine. These larger fish are humpback (during spawning).

Next week—How to Catch Sea Bass?



Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

WHY PARTY BOATS?

Part Two—*RIGGING-UP*

Because I've always believed many sinker bouncers need convincing that party boat fishing is rewarding to the dedicated angler, I devoted last week's article to giving reasons why I thought this is so. This week, we'll go into something a little less sticky: tackle and terminal gear, plus a run-down on baits and hooks.

The days of the famous four to six-inch, side-winder reels, split bamboo, lancewood, and converted hickory billiard cue rods, are long gone. They were a cumbersome combination at best, as many old-timers will agree—but in the main, it was good tackle for what the times had to offer and did its job well. But to compare it to tackle in use today, is like comparing a Cadillac to a Model T. There's just no comparison, whatsoever.

Present day party boat fishermen are indeed fortunate: they have at their beck and call, an array of rods that can take punishment, rods that seem impervious to the actions of even the most careless fisherman; all the result of technological advancements reaching into every field imaginable. These rods are strong and extremely sensitive. The stealthy bite of the wariest fish is quickly telegraphed along its length, and yet it is light enough not to become tiring during a day's hectic fishing.

Reels are masterpieces of flawless craftmanship and precision machining—much like a fine watch. I don't know what tomorrow's rods and reels will be like, but I honestly don't expect much improvement in the foreseeable future; but then that was probably said about the Model T.

And yet with all these good things going for it, today's tackle isn't expensive. For the returns received in health, enjoyment, and fun, fishing is one sport where the devotee gets his money's worth. For less than a day's pay, any fisherman can equip himself with the proper tackle needed to do a job on the many varieties of fish caught from party boats.

My conventional rod for summertime party boat fishing is a medium-weight stick, seven feet long. I can't tell you the manufacturer's name—and I wish I could—but with the handling a fifteen-year-old rod receives, much of this on a daily basis for years, the decal has long since disintegrated, but I believe it to be a Harnel.

My two favorite reels are Penn 155s. I've had one of these for almost forty years—with never a repair. Now that's what I call a plus for American-made tackle! I've always felt strongly about this particular reel, and when I purchased that summertime rod, I also picked up another 155. This is the one I use exclusively for codfishing, and like the older model, it's still going strong.

Codfishing is a rugged sport; therefore, it is always best to use a rod with backbone. Not only is codfishing done in deep water with strong tides which make heavy sinkers mandatory, but "old whiskers" has a leather-like jaw, and it takes a rod with oomph to drive the hook home. My cod stick is a six-footer; manufacturer again unknown.

You should have no trouble selecting the right rod, though. Just remember to use a medium-weight rod in summer, and a stiffer, heavier rod for cod and you'll do okay. Don't let length bother you too much: if in doubt about this, select one a foot longer than your height. It will work out fine.

There are so many excellent conventional reels available, it would be impossible to pinpoint any particular one. Just be sure your selected reel is capable of handling a minimum of 100 yards of 40 pound test monofilament line. A star drag is a good feature to have; you'll find most fine reels have this. Just don't buy anything shoddy. Get the best you can afford, one with a name you recognize. Shun the "Hong Kong Special" as you would a leper. Tackle for party boat fishing is no place to save a buck.

Actually, it isn't necessary to buy two reels: one will suffice if it's capable of holding 100 yards of 40 pound test. For average summertime fishing, just remove the heavy stuff and substitute 20 pound test. The extra reel is really a convenience to avoid this nuisance job.

Of course, it's always nice to have an extra reel along in case something unforeseen rears its ugly head. It's never happened to me—probably because I'm prepared for it—but it's a good feeling to know you can copper all bets.

Let me insert a word of caution here: notice spinning tackle hasn't been mentioned. I agree that it's a joy to use—but not aboard party boats! Take a tip from me, and leave it home. In short, you'll foul up the works for yourself and neighboring fishermen at the rail. The only time such tackle should be used aboard party boats is when fishing sheltered bays for flounder, fluke, etc. Even under these conditions, I prefer light conventional tackle in its place.

Don't get the idea, however, that because you're equipped with the latest in the tackle-maker's art, you'll automatically put fish in the bucket. Nothing could be further from the truth. How you go about using that tackle is the key to successful party boat fishing.

A fifty-cent hand line, in the hands of an expert fisherman, will outfish a rod and reel any day of the week. Don't scoff. It's true. I've seen it happen too many times. In fact, many hook and line commercial fishermen use nothing but hand lines; but these hard-working gentlemen are not interested in fun—you are. And because of this, nothing adds more enjoyment to party boat fishing than the proper rod and reel.

Let me say, too, that if you'd like to try party boat fishing but are uncertain if it's for you, it isn't necessary to invest in tackle at the beginning. Party boats rent suitable tackle for the day's fishing. Some make no charge for this convenience, some a buck or two. But I'll tell you one thing: after a trip or two, I think you'll be haunting your favorite tackle shop for your own personal outfit. In fact, I can almost guarantee it.

There are few fish landed aboard party boats that aren't caught on bottom. If you wish to be technical, you could say cod and pollack are not strictly bottom fish as compared, let's say, to the fluke. But for our purposes, you can consider them as such and this is where you'll fish for them.

In Springtime, you'll be doing mackerel fishing near the surface. These are not bottom feeders in the true sense of the word, and their discussion will not enter here. You'll find LIF covers mackerel fishing well before the run. If you're impatient for the lowdown, and can't wait until then, send for a back copy of issue #16, 1977. Check Page Three of this issue for information on ordering.

Rigging for bottom fish is simplicity itself. The one most often used is called the deep-sea, or two-hook rig. To use this, tie the bottom hook the length of its snell above the sinker, the top one only high enough above to avoid tangling. These are attached to the main line by using one or two-inch dropper loops formed with tightly drawn, double-overhand knots. Those versatile little gizmos called "Quick-Rigs" can be used in place of dropper loops. Most tackle shops stock them.

Some fishermen use three-way swivels instead of dropper loops. These should be 3/0 in size and placed on the main line with Improved Clinch Knots. This knot is easily made by running four inches of line through the swivel eye, then twisting the short end around the line five or six times. The short end is then pushed through the first twist nearest the eye and brought back through the large loop formed by doing this. Pull up slowly until the knot is secure and cut off excess. Allow a small piece to remain to avoid slipping. This is an excellent tie and the main line will part before the knot lets go.

When fluke fishing, place your leader about two inches above the sinker, using either a three-way swivel or the double-overhand knotted loop. A "Quick-Rig" is okay here, too.

Later, as you become more involved in the sport, you'll automatically form ideas on how best to rig under certain conditions. This is good. Experimentation should always be your key word; but in the beginning, rigging as mentioned will produce fish for you.

Bank type sinkers are best to use. They are placed directly on the end of the line with the aid of a double-overhand loop or a sinker snap. Loops are better, I think. Always remember—the more hardware you use for bottom fishing, the fewer fish you are apt to catch, especially when fishing cluttered bottom, such as wreck areas and rocky ledges where terminal tackle is easily snagged.

Bait is no problem. A variety of baits can be used for

(Continued on page 10.)

When the temperature soars into the mid 90s and the humidity follows right along, who wants to remain at home trying to beat the heat? This is the time to get out and do some serious surf fishing. The cooling sea breezes and the warmth of the sun provide a healthy setting for a truly great sport.

During June through September, the south shore of Long Island plays host to a great population of summer flatfish, namely fluke. These fish are very common to most of the beach and jetty areas and are caught in numbers by surfcasters from Brooklyn to Montauk. Fluke are not as elusive as striped bass, but some basic skills and insights are necessary in order to catch these tasty fish.

SOUTH SHORE FLUKE
Part One

Fluke are primarily bottom fish. They spend most of their time swimming or feeding within a foot or two of the ocean's bottom. When feeding, they lie in wait for their prey covering themselves with sand and consequently make good use of their coloring in order to camouflage their presence. It is for this reason that the surfcaster should limit his fishing to areas having sandy gravel-like characteristics, or fishing the muddy flats of the back bays. Fluke are rarely found on rough rocky bottoms, but have been known to haunt many of the offshore wrecks. It is very helpful to know the contour and topography of the bottom you are fishing. Fluke congregate along the edges of channels, drop-offs, sandbars, and slopes to feed. There are times surfcasters can observe these formations by the changes in the water's color.

The knowledgeable surfcaster must also take the conditions of the water into consideration when selecting a location to fish. Excessive amounts of seaweed or grass can seriously hamper a days fishing. The tides should be used to the surfcaster's advantage in that their effect upon fishing varies between locations. Many "productive surfmen" limit their fishing to a select area in order to formulate the effects of the tides, winds, bottom and water conditions on the feeding habits of the fish. When this is done properly, a fisherman can almost look at his watch on a given day, and know that the fish are on the feed.

Fluke have been caught as close as 5 to 7 feet from many jetties, but it is of great importance to develop the skill of casting. Distance and accuracy are two key elements necessary for all types of successful surf fishing. Anglers can choose between conventional and spinning outfits when fishing from the surf. The spinning reel makes casting easier in that the "backlash" problem is virtually eliminated. Both types of reels are used commonly and should be selected upon individual preference.

Surfcasters should try to keep the diameter of the line they choose to a minimum. The greater the diameter, the more resistance the angler will encounter when casting, and this will greatly cut down on distance. All spools should be filled to capacity with a good quality of monofilament not to exceed 30 pound test for conventional reels, and 15 to 17 pound test mono for spinning reels. I prefer 20 lb. test "X-L" line for conventional use.

It is of great importance to remember to fill each spool to capacity in order to allow the line an easy flow from the reel. By doing this, maximum casting distance can be achieved. The angler should make his decisions on purchasing line by considering the advice of other surfmen or that of reputable tackle store owners.

Despite the type of reel used, the ideal rod for surf fishing fluke is a 7 to 8 foot light to medium action spinning rod. This length of rod will provide the angler with enough stick to reach fish at a distance when necessary. The most important aspect of the rod is its weight. The rod must be light! Fluke feed on moving bait, and the rod should be worked constantly to achieve this. A heavy rod will surely cause early arm fatigue. The baited rig should be retrieved slowly as it skirts along the bottom. This technique is used by a great percentage of surfmen and provides a successful method for catching fluke. Fish can be caught on non-moving "dead lines", but substantial catches are made when the rig used is worked along the bottom.

The surfmen that fish bait usually use many different rigs when fluking. A basic rig that is highly productive begins with a snap swivel tied directly to the line. A barrel swivel is then tied to a 12 inch length of 30 lb. test leader. The sinker is now tied to the free end of the leader. A 1/0 tinned long shank beak hook with a baitholder on a 30 to 36 inch leader of 20 to 30 lb. test is then attached about an inch above the sinker. This can be accomplished by tying a loop, or by using the convenient "quick rigs" sold in most tackle stores. The rig is now attached to the snap swivel previously tied to the line from the spool. This set up prevents many tangles associated with fishing long leaders and gives the jetty jockeys an added advantage by preventing the rig from suffering nicks and abrasion associated with jetty fishing. I personally like to avoid all of the fluke spinners and "jewelry rigs" used by many.

For those who prefer using artificials, an 8 inch length of leader used as a "shocker" is suggested. Fluke have a tendency of swallowing entire rigs, and a good sized fish can easily eat through 10 to 15 lb. test line while fighting for his life. Many artificials produce fluke, but a ½ ounce to 1 oz. white bucktail can't be beat. Tin squids of the same size also take fish regularly.

Next week—Natural bait for fluke in the surf.

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Sinker Bouncing: WHY PARTY BOATS?

(Continued from page 9.)

bottom-feeding fish, but skimmer clam is most often found aboard party boats. This isn't to say you can't bring along your own bait for special conditions—such as when going for blackfish and cod. But until you have much experience under your belt, stick to skimmer. It will produce fish for you. You'll find this is always cut into the correct size for the fish desired, and you may use all you wish.

Fish bait, when provided for fluke, is usually in the form of squid, spearing, or live killies.

The subject of hooks is of extreme importance to the expert sinker bouncer. In fact, he's downright fanatical about it. Always remember—all you've been reading is but an aid to get that thin, tempered bit of steel inside the fish's mouth.

Below is a list of hooks I've found to work well. There are many varieties of hooks on the market, but like rigging, until you have experience behind you, stick to the list that follows.

Blackfish—Virginia, #4 to #8, with size five preferred.
Cod & Pollack—Sproat, 5/0 to 7/0.
Ling—Sproat, 3/0 or 4/0.
Whiting—Carlisle, 3/0 or 4/0, or same size Sproat.
Sea Porgy—Sproat, 1/0 or 2/0
Bay Porgy—Sproat, 4 to 6.
Sea Bass—Sproat, 3/0 to 5/0.
Fluke—Carlisle, 3/0 to 5/0 on three-foot leader.
Flounder—Chestertown, 9 or 10.

All Sproat hooks are regular-shanked. Carlisle and Chestertown hooks are long-shanked.

Next week, we'll have a breakdown on what fish you can expect to catch each month aboard party boats.

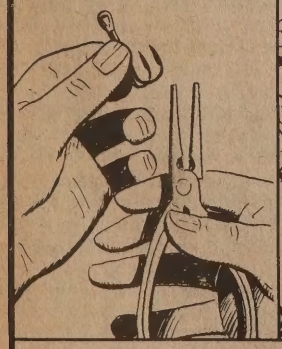
FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

IF YOUR LIVE BAIT IS TOO LIGHT TO CAST FROM SHORE, WRAP IT IN A MUDBALL. AN EASY CAST PUTS THE LINE OUT. THE MUD DISSOLVES QUICKLY AND LOOKS NATURAL IN THE WATER.

IN A PINCH THE DIP STICK OF YOUR CAR WILL PROVIDE ENOUGH OIL TO KEEP REELS LUBRICATED OR GUNS FROM RUSTING.

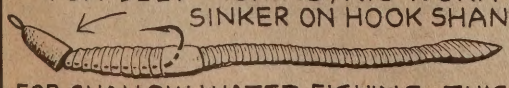
BARBLESS HOOKS CAN BE MADE IN SECONDS BY MASHING THE BARB AGAINST THE SHANK WITH A PAIR OF PLIERS - IN CASE YOU WANT TO TURN FISH LOOSE UNHARMED AFTER LIMITING OUT.



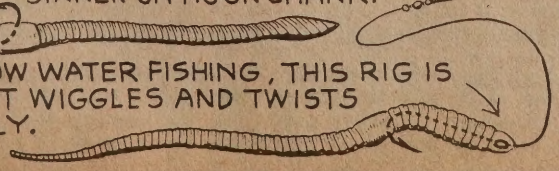
YELLOW JACKETS CAN BE A NUISANCE AROUND CAMP. TO GET RID OF THEM, SUSPEND A FISH OVER A BUCKET OF WATER A DISTANCE AWAY. THE INSECTS GORGE ON THE MEAT, FALL IN THE BUCKET AND DROWN!

PLASTIC WORMS FOR FRESHWATER BASS.

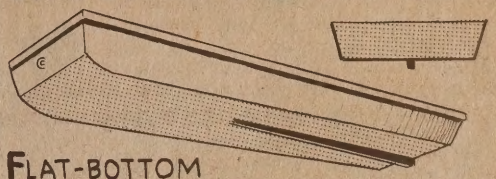
FOR DEEP FISHING, RIG WORM WITH SLIP-SINKER ON HOOK SHANK.



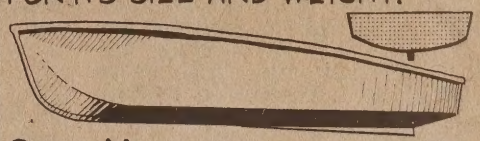
FOR SHALLOW WATER FISHING, THIS RIG IS USED AS IT WIGGLES AND TWISTS ENTICINGLY.



BOAT BOTTOMS FOR YOUR AREA.

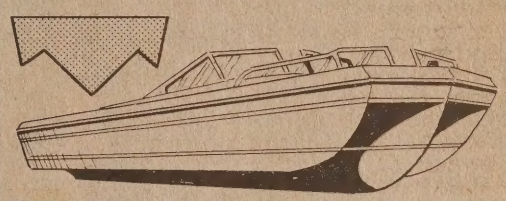


FLAT-BOTTOM HULL DRAWS LEAST AMOUNT OF WATER FOR ITS SIZE AND WEIGHT.

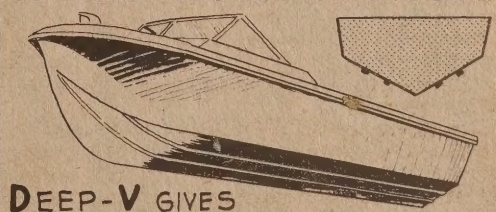


SEMI-V DRAWS SLIGHTLY MORE WATER THAN FLAT BOTTOM, BUT POUNDS LESS IN CHOP.

MODIFIED DEEP-V GIVES A SOFT RIDE. IS CONSIDERED GOOD ALL AROUND HULL.

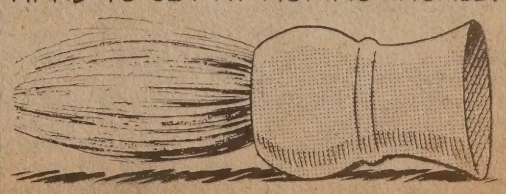


TRI-HULL IS ROOMIEST AND MOST STABLE FOR ITS SIZE WHILE AT REST.



DEEP-V GIVES BEST RIDE IN ROUGH WATER BUT HAS DEEPEST DRAFT.

A SHAVING BRUSH IS TOPS FOR DUSTING OFF TACKLE, GUNS AND CAMERAS. A SECOND BRUSH IS ALSO USEFUL TO OIL OR LUBRICATE HARD TO GET AT FISHING TACKLE.



Alligators At Cartwright!

by Ron Onorato

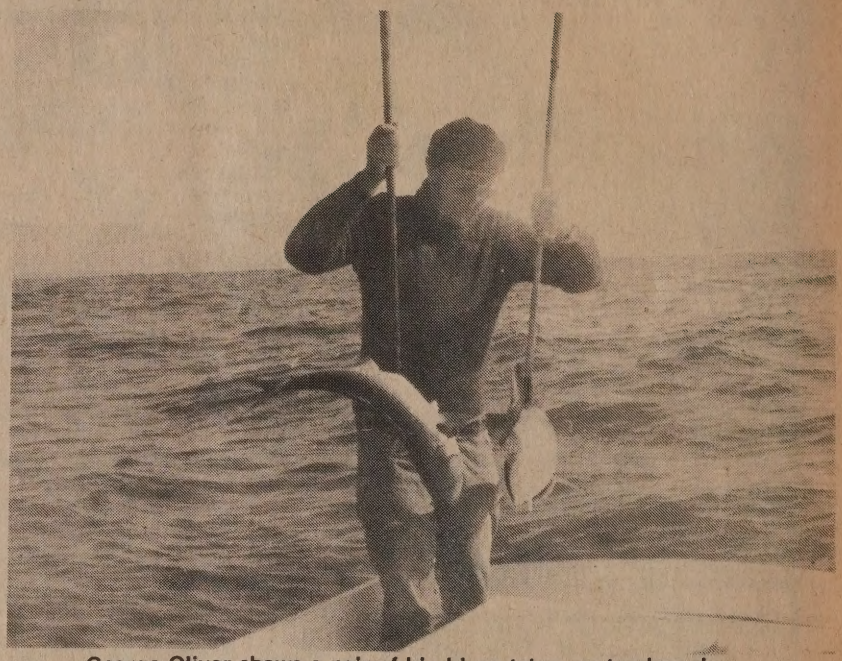
As the Summer of 1976 was rapidly winding down, it became evident that the huge schools of blues that were tearing up the beaches south of Jersey, were not going to move much further north. Whatever blues filtered north seemed to head right for Montauk, and once they arrived, they stayed put. But even at Montauk, they didn't move inshore at all, but remained offshore around Block Island, and at the Cartwright grounds.

The Cartwright grounds is a series of high pieces of ground that rise from 140 feet of water, all the way up to 75 feet. It is a wide area and is full of gullies and ridges. This piece lies about eight miles south of Montauk Point and, for most of September and October, was the scene of perhaps the most consistent bluefish action in the northeast region. Boats from as far away as Connecticut were sailing to the Cartwright grounds. Many of the Greenport, Long Island charter boats would be fishing this area to find some blues. Needless to say, the Montauk charter fleet was also dependent on this action.

The Cartwright grounds are very rich in bottom life, and it is for this reason that the blues have consistently been found there. Originally, the area was renown as a codfish producer during the spring and winter months. The schools of cod would feed on the lobsters, crabs, and bergalls that swarmed on the high pieces. Apparently, the bluefish must have found them appealing also, as they have been found here in good numbers for a great many years.

Because this piece of ground lies pretty far offshore, it is very difficult to locate. On the clearest of days, it would be possible to get shore ranges with some glasses, but for the most part, would be out of sight of land with any sort of haze. Those boats equipped with Loran had no problems locating it. Fortunately, several party boats would be fishing the area on a daily basis, and by running a compass course, they would eventually be picked up visually.

Fishing for the big blues out there has evolved into a very specialized technique: locating the fish was the first difficult aspect, and then finding a way to catch them came next. The blues were hanging out on the high grounds, feeding on the forage that was available to them; rarely did they move far from there. This was ascertained by running the area with a paper recorder; most of the schools of fish were near the high spots. It was also discovered that the blues were hugging the bottom pretty much, so this eliminated the trolling in most cases. Because the fish were pretty concentrated, it became evident that drifting over the area was not practical.



George Oliver shows a pair of big blues taken on tandem rig.

Gradually, the fishermen refined their techniques, and now find the Cartwright blues a soft touch.

The first and foremost thing to take into consideration when you first fish these grounds, is to find the right piece of bottom that holds fish. In some years, the blues are so heavy that virtually the whole area was covered with pockets of fish. Without any consideration for careful anchorage, you could anchor up anywhere in the fleet and catch fish. Last year, while there was a good body of fish, they preferred certain areas and weren't spread out as they have been in the past.

Usually there are at least two or three party boats fishing the area, so finding the general area is just a matter of looking for where they are anchored. Once you get into the general area, you have to begin scouting around for a place to drop the hook. A good paper recorder is a must for finding the right bottom formations that hold the blues. As mentioned earlier, look for the high ridges as a general rule. Although the blues may not show up all the time on the machine, if you grab a good piece of bottom, they'll eventually show up.

Learning how to anchor the boat so that she sits right where you want it, is about the most difficult part of the fishing. There is usually a good tide running here, and many fishermen fail to take this into consideration. They rely solely upon the wind to set the anchor, and when they are 100 feet off the piece, they wonder what happened. If the wind and the tide are together, there will be no problem. If the wind is in an opposite direction from the tide, then some problems will arise, but none that can't be overcome. If there are other boats anchored, look at the direction in which they lay, and this will give you a good indication of what's what. Sometimes you'll have to make several attempts before the boat is laying where you want it to. All too often, many boatmen get frustrated after trying to anchor a couple of times and settle just anywhere. These same fishermen also wonder why they didn't catch, while others did. One problem that existed last year was, that whenever one boat would get into fish, several others would try to anchor as close as possible. All too often these fishermen would fail to judge things properly, and end up right into someone else's boat. There are plenty of good spots out there, so there is no need for crowding.

Because these blues spent almost all of the time feeding within the bottom ten feet of water, a technique was developed whereby a piece of bait could be presented to the fish without too much trouble.

The same method that was used by the party boats when fishing the Race off Connecticut, was applied here with very good results. The rig itself is basically very simple, and there have been many modified versions on the market for many years.

The rig itself is simply a 10 or 12 ounce drail with a pair of big hooks connected to each other by means of some sort of chain or wire leader. This rig would then be baited with either a whole bunker or herring. These rigs could be purchased pre-made, or you can make your own for a lot less money. Even though you're using a wire leader, you're going to lose a few rigs from time to time. You may foul it in the rough bottom, or a blue may decide to swallow the lead drail, rather than the fish bait. With this in mind, you should have a ready supply at all times.

The best thing to do is go to a tackle shop and pick up a dozen 10 ounce drails. Along with this, get 24 O'Shaughnessy hooks, about 9/0 in size, and a batch of 60 pound nylon-coated wire leader with some crimps. These big drails are equipped with a big, heavy snap, so the first thing you do is simply slip one of the hooks onto the snap and close it .up. The first hook is now free-swinging from the snap. Now, take about a ten-inch piece of the leader and crimp it to the other hook. Take the other end of the wire leader and crimp it right to the snap of the drail. What you have now is a two-hook tandem rig that will easily accommodate any sort of fish bait that you may use. The cost of making your own rigs is about half of what they may go for in the tackle shops.

Because you're going to be fishing with fairly heavy weights, the tackle you'll need will be a bit on the beefy side. You may be fishing with over a pound of weight on the end of the line after you figure the weight of the bait. My favorite outfit is a medium weight, 30 pound class Fenwick outfit, with a Penn 3/0 Special Senator. This rig is heavy enough to handle the weight on the line and still allow good action with the fish. You can go heavier, or you can go lighter under certain circumstances, but for the most part, this type outfit will serve you well under most circumstances.

For the most part, the blues are lurking near the bottom, and this is where you want to place your bait. The bait in most cases, is either whole bunker, or whole herring. They are available in most of the tackle shops and are sold by the "flat." A "flat" is approximately 30 pieces of bait that are frozen and sold in cardboard boxes. How much bait will be needed is dependent upon the number of fishermen in your party. If there are several anglers in your group, and the fishing is hot, you may need three or four flats of bait. It should be remembered that each bait will account for just a single fish in most cases, and often the baits will be hit without hooking a fish. Though far from common, on several occasions last year, two fish were taken on a single herring bait. One took the head hook, and another took the tail hook. If the blues are especially heavy, this may happen occasionally.

Hooking the bait to the rig is pretty simple: you take the hook that is attached directly to the drail and insert it through the lips of the bunker or herring. The hook on the wire leader is then inserted through the back of the fish somewhere near the tail region. In this manner, you have a shot to hook the fish—whether he takes it head first, or tail first.

The weighted and baited rig is then lowered to the bottom, and once bottom is felt, the bait is then cranked in a few turns. Now you keep the reel in free spool with your thumb on the spool. If a pick-up is felt, you take your thumb off the spool and let the bluefish chew for a few seconds, and then put the reel into gear. Don't be yanking on the bait every time you feel a bite—the bait is pretty big—and it takes a little time for the fish to swallow the bait. If, after several minutes you get no pick-ups, raise the bait a few more feet off the bottom. If after a half hour or so you get no pick-ups at any level, then it is time for a move. There are times when the fish are settled into just one piece of the area, and it takes a little work to locate them.

The interesting thing about the Cartwright grounds is the size of the fish taken. It is rare indeed to take a fish of less than 10 pounds out here. The fish usually average between 12 and 15 pounds, with fish in the high teens and, occasionally 20 pound range, is far from rare. With fish that big, the smaller blues would be fair game for their bigger brothers. If you're looking for the best time, try the month of September, and stay away from the full moon period, as this creates very fast tides in this area. If the blues pull a disappearing act next year again, the Cartwright grounds will be awfully crowded.

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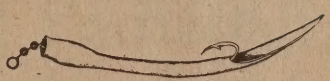

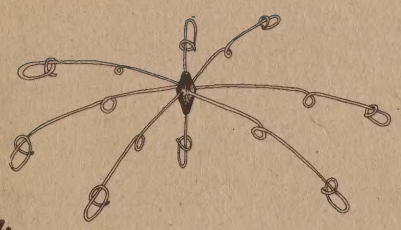

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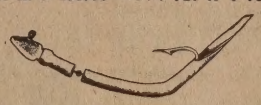

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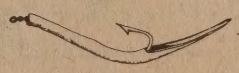

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Fluking in High Society

by John V. Konior

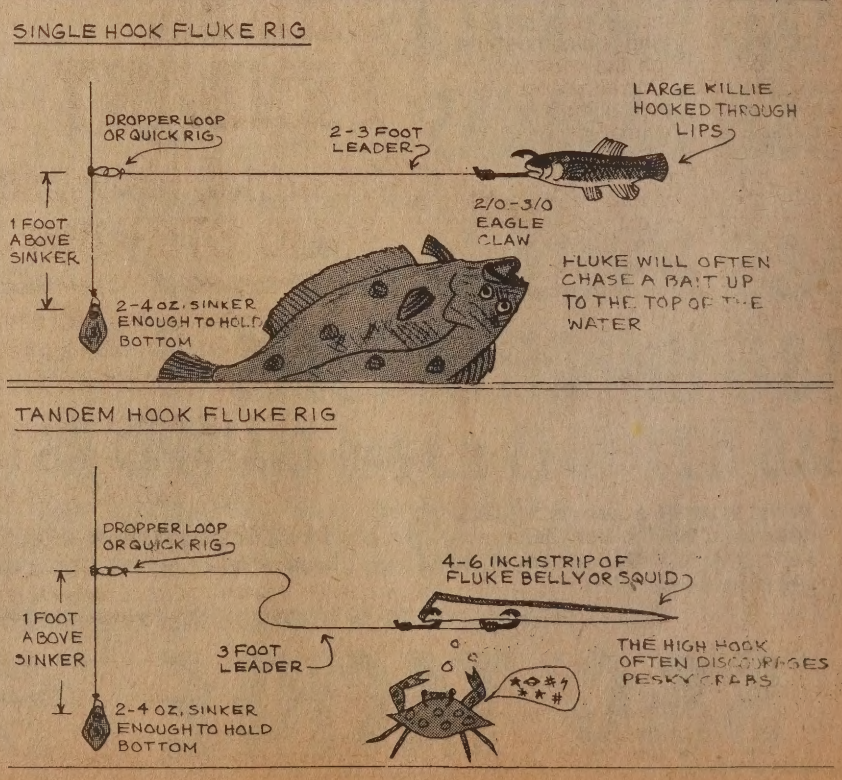
"A white sport coat and a pink carnation," so the song goes. While stretching the point a bit, there are a number of beautiful luxury cruisers plying our South Shore waters, and if one bothers to take notice, it seems that at one time or another, every one of them manage to navigate the boatman's answer to the infamous Long Island Expressway—the State Boat Channel. Particularly noticeable at Zach's Bay, boats of all shapes and sizes can be found, calling to mind the Allied Fleet during the inavsion of Normandy. Fortunately, this armada gathers for more peaceful purposes, although we, as fishermen, have second thoughts. For unfortunately, the State Channel—particularly in the vicinity of Zach's Bay—happens to offer some of the finest fluke fishing around. It becomes difficult, at best, to drift along with the current, trying for fluke, while simultaneously dodging wakes from passing cruisers; wakes which, at times, seem to compete with the tidal wave portrayed in the "Poseiden Adventure." Alas, that's the price us fishermen have to pay for success.

I know I'm exaggerating a bit, but it's a fact that the State Channel does indeed harbor a vast quantity of large fluke. Having the misfortunate to be among the fishermen whose only opportunity to fish is on weekends or holidays, I've found it absolutely necessary to apply an old adage in practice: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes one healthy (sleepy), wealthy (in terms of catching fish), and wise (enough said)." To avoid the horrendous boat traffic encountered in the area, it's become an absolute necessity to leave the dock at the ungodly hour of 4 AM. As you know, there are very few bait stations open at that hour; so it becomes necessary to prepare in advance, buying your bait, etc., the day before, and hoping no one takes a liking to the killie bucket you have hanging in the water before you have a chance to use it. An alternative is to wait until the late afternoon. Either way, it just doesn't make any sense to fish the State Channel at high noon.

Last summer was a banner year for large fluke in the State Channel. I can't recall one trip where I didn't manage to land at least one fish in the six to ten pound class. Don't get me wrong: all the fish you'll catch won't be that big, and you'll catch your share of throw-backs, but overall you should catch plenty of keepers. Fishing the State Channel is quite simple, if one only bothers to observe a few common-sense rules. First of all, drift fishing with the current has proven to be the most productive method. Winds are an important factor. Since, for the most part, the State Channel runs in an east/west direction, an east or west wind can be an annoyance. By this I mean that if the tide is ebbing (westerly current;, an east wind can really move your boat along the bottom quickly—too fast, in fact. One means of compensating for this is to drag an anchor or other suitable weight. By the same token, with the tide ebbing and the wind from the west, your drift may be too slow. It may then become necessary to slow troll. The best winds, in my estimation, are those from the northwest, southwest, or north or south, etc. These winds will cause your boat to drift across channel. By far the most productive drift, the disadvantage is having to look out for boat traffic; but it shouldn't be a problem if you get out early, or later, as I stated before.

Fluke are rarely caught in the deeper waters of the mid-Channel (there are always exceptions), preferring instead the slopes of channels. As such, a cross-channel drift is your best bet. Depending upon direction of drift, start your drift in shoal water on one side of the channel and continue your drift into shoal water on the other side of the channel. You'll notice that you'll get more hits just as the water begins to deepen. If wind and current are such that your drift is not across the channel, stick as close to the sides of the channels as much as possible. If you're into fish, take careful notice of your starting location when beginning your drift and retrace your path at the end of your drift. Don't give up too soon on a given path. However, if after a couple of unproductive drifts, move your starting location 25 to 50 feet, and try again. By employing this method, you're bound to find them.

Although I've been an avid advocate of the sliding sinker rig (or Florida Rig), I've found that another rig setup is far more effective when drifting for fluke in the State Channel (see illustration). The rig is comprised of a single hook tied approximately a foot above the sinker. I prefer to use a 2/0 or 3/0 Eagle Claw short shank hook, with a two to three foot leader. The hook's short shank makes it imperative to use a fish disgorger, particularly when freeing under-sized fish and particularly larger fish with nasty, sharp teeth. For some reason, I find the short shank Eagle Claw more effective than the more popularly used


SINGLE HOOK FLUKE RIG
DROPPER LOOP OR QUICK RIG
2-3 FOOT LEADER
LARGE KILLIE HOOKED THROUGH LIPS
2/0-3/0 EAGLE CLAW
1 FOOT ABOVE SINKER
2-4 OZ. SINKER ENOUGH TO HOLD BOTTOM
FLUKE WILL OFTEN CHASE A BAIT UP TO THE TOP OF THE WATER
TANDEM HOOK FLUKE RIG
DROPPER LOOP OR QUICK RIG
4-6 INCH STRIP OF FLUKE BELLY OR SQUID
1 FOOT ABOVE SINKER
3 FOOT LEADER
THE HIGH HOOK OFTEN DISCOURAGES PESKY CRABS
2-4 OZ. SINKER ENOUGH TO HOLD BOTTOM

Carlise or Fluke hook. By the same token, tying the hook a foot above the sinker appears to give the drifted boat more action and visibility, compared to a hook tied directly above the sinker—which, incidentally, has a tendency to foul up on the bottom or get entangled with seaweed or a hungry crab. Depending on the bait you use, it sometimes becomes necessary to use a tandem hook; that is, one hook tied directly behind the other. This hook setup is extremely effective when using squid or other strip bait, since fluke often will nip off your offering just behind your hook. Sounds familiar? (See illustration.)

A word on baits. In my experience, **large, live killies** are the most effective bait. Simply pass the hook through both lips. Another effective bait is squid or strip bait. Fluke belly is particularly good since its toughness often prevents the fluke from ripping it off the hook, as is the case with squid. And by the way, don't make the mistake of mangling a perfectly good fluke to obtain your fluke belly strip bait, or worse, give in to temptation in using an undersized fluke for this purpose. Keep in mind that at last call, possessing an undersized fluke will cost you $60 for the first fish, and $25 for each additional fluke under **14 inches**. So don't take the chance, and in any event, it's not a very sporting thing to do anyway. If you're like me, you probably fillet your fluke and skin them. Well! Didn't you realize that the white skin make a perfectly good strip bait? And shame, because you've probably been throwing it away all these years and going out and buying squid. In fact, when using fluke skin, you won't need the tandem hook setup after all. Another point regarding strip bait. First of all, use a sharp knife. Cut the strips into lengths four to six inches long, an inch wide at the top, tapering to a point at the bottom. Hook through the wide end of the strip only once. This allows the strip to wave freely when drifted and it doesn't bunch up. As in all my fishing, I advocate bringing along a supply of different baits. There's nothing worse than seeing someone else catching fish after fish, and finding out that he's using a bait you don't have. Therefore, it's always a good idea to bring along a package of spearing and sand eels, particularly when fluke fishing. As I mentioned previously, however, soft baits such as the above are more prone to be stolen and the pesky calico crab simply love them. Combination baits sometimes work.

Let's discuss technique awhile. More fluke are lost, or a hit muffed, because the inexperienced fisherman is too anxious. Fluke rarely smash into a bait as a bluefish will do. The wary fluke will grab at that bait, attempting to maim it. If you attempt to set the hook at the moment you first feel the hit, you'll invariably pull the bait away from the fluke, or at best, just lip hook it. Therefore, when you first get a hit, immediately disengage your line and/or lower your rod tip. Wait a few seconds (count to five), then slowly lift your rod tip and engage your line. When you feel something heavy or a good tug, set the hook. I guarantee you'll set the hook far more often using this method. So great—you've hooked your fish. Now let's talk about why so many seemingly well hooked fluke are lost at the boat. Unless the fish is too small, never and I mean never, attempt to lift the fish into the boat without the aid of a net. A fluke's mouth is thin and bony, and a hook will wear a hole in its mouth, particularly if you've hooked into a big one. Release pressure for just a moment and the hook may fall out. Attempt to lift the fluke over the side and the hook may rip out. If it's never happened to you, I'm sure you've seen it happen to someone else, and if you're like me, I hate to see a grown man cry. Fluke also have the annoying habit of playing dead when you're reeling it in (it often feels like you're reeling in a horseshoe crab). And then when you've got it at the boat, all hell breaks loose. A medium size fluke can generate quite a bit of power, and if you haven't set your drag properly on your reel, the results can be unfortunate, i.e., the hook pulls out—or worse, your line breaks. Fluke fishermen, as such, are known to have quite an unprintable vocabulary, if you get the point.

Here's a tip on storing your catch. If you want to keep them fresh, you could string them and keep them in the water. I don't recommend this: too often you forget to bring them out of the water when you're under way. The result, well you figure it out. If you keep them in a pail exposed to the sun—with or without water—they'll dry up or literally cook. Your best bet is to bring along a large cooler chest. Fill the chest with saltwater and dump in a keg of ice. Used half gallon milk containers are an excellent and inexpensive way to make your own ice. The cold water prevents the fish from deteriorating and you won't end up with a bunch of slimy fish at the end of the day.

And now let's discuss location. The State Channel is pretty big. Take my advice and limit your fishing to the area adjacent to the eastern channel leading into Zach's Bay and easterly to a point where pilings (on the south side of the channel) mark the sewerage outfall pipe. This stretch of water is approximately one mile. You can even try a bit further east to a point where you reach Tobay Beach.

I've found the area described, very productive during July and August. As a bonus, you may even run into a few blues and weakfish, and heaven forbid that I give away too many secrets, an occasional striper.

Although I've lingered on weekend fishing, ergo, the title of the article, when you'll encounter a lot of heavy boat traffic, your chances of success will be greatly enhanced during weekdays. If you're that fortunate, good luck. For those of us forced to rub elbows with high society, you'll still make your day worthwhile.

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Fishing Long Island Sound

with Ted Keatley

In Western Long Island Sound, this is the time of year when the dropouts from the Rube Goldberg School of Engineering begin extolling their latest inventions for holding live bunkers. So, why should I be different?

Actually, my bunker-keeping arrangement hasn't changed appreciably in some years, and it is relatively simple. All that is required are two plastic trash barrels (24 and 32 gal.), and an old inner tube.

The 32 gallon barrel is kept inside the boat and filled with water for transporting the bunkers from where they are caught to the fishing area. I have inserted a plastic through hull fitting in the barrel about six inches below the rim. Attached to this is a length of 1½" plastic hose, which can be put over the side to carry the overflow when fresh water is added.

The smaller barrel is the actual container for the bunkers. I drilled about 20 holes in it with a 1-1/4" pipe hole saw. The inner tube is attached to the rim.

When snagging bunkers, the inner barrel is placed overboard with a line attached to hold it alongside the boat. This eliminates the problems when bleeding bunkers are brought aboard and placed in a limited volume of water. For reasons which a marine biologist should be able to explain better than I, bloody water seems to greatly increase the mortality rate.

When enough bunkers have been snagged, it is a simple matter to take the barrel aboard and place it in the larger one which has been filled with water. Since the holes permit the barrel to drain rapidly, lifting it aboard presents no problem.

With a fairly fast boat and a nearby fishing area, it is not normally necessary to replace the water. However, if the trip will take over ten minutes, at least one stop to change the water is advisable.

Unless it is a period of hot, still weather with an algae bloom and a very low level of dissolved oxygen in the water, the arrangement which I have described should handle eight to ten bunkers satisfactorily. With poor water conditions, a maximum of six would be preferable.

My set-up may not be as fancy as some which include big aerator pumps and all kinds of plumbing; however, it is simple, inexpensive, and well suited to a small boat with limited space. It is also easy to get out of the way when you do not intend to fish live bunkers. I put mine on the dock and tie it to a cleat so that it won't go overboard accidentally.

There is an old English recipe for rabbit stew which begins, "First, catch thyself a fine hare." So, if you tend to use a bunker barrel, the first step is to catch thyself some fine bunkers.

Bunker schools are more likely to be on the surface when the water is calm—and they certainly are easier to spot then. Early morning just after dawn, is the best time to find bunkers since the schools usually are on top. Later in the day, traffic and disturbance drives them down deeper unless there are a horde of chopping blues down there to push them back up.

Photo of the barrell used by the author to keep bunkers alive.

Actually, the easiest way to find bunkers is to go out without any snagging rigs. This will guarantee sighting any number of schools.

Since the menhaden are plankton feeders which will not take bait or lures, normal fishing techniques do not work.

While there is increasing interest in the use of cast nets (Charley Soares covered this in a recent NEF article), most sportsmen rely on snagging the fish with weighted treble hooks. Since the fish travel in tight, dense schools, this is not too difficult.

I use a 7/0 treble, with three half ounce sliding egg sinkers on the line immediately above. If bluefish are around, the snagging rig should be made up on a length of 45-60 pound nylon coated leader cable. I have had days in late summer when I could bring about one bunker out of five into the boat before it was chomped by a big bluefish.

Another necessity is a fairly stiff rod. It takes backbone to get through the heavy bunker scales and set the hook.

When a school is spotted, come up alongside the fish with as little noise and commotion as possible. Don't go into the school. Try to position yourself up-wind for ease in casting. More than once, I have watched someone charge into the middle of a school at full throttle, cut the motor, and then look around in bewilderment wondering where the fish had gone. It is often possible to work a school of bunkers for a long time if they have not been spooked or frightened.

Cast along the side of the school and allow the weighted rig to sink before starting the retrieve. If you start reeling too soon, you merely drag the hooks through the water above the bunkers. What you see on the surface is only a small portion of the school—the bulk of the fish are deeper. Retrieve rapidly, with frequent hook-setting swings of the rod tip through a big arc. Some of the experts with sensitive fingers reel steadily until they actually feel the bunkers bumping against the line before they set the hook. One final caution: when allowing the rig to sink at the end of a cast, the risk of waiting too long is far less than that of beginning the retrieve too soon.

The greatest problem is the days when the bunkers are not showing on the surface. Sometimes, they can be found with a depth recorder, although they tend to move out of the path of an approaching boat. It is often possible to spot the fish when they are not too deep by the surface swirls and eddies which their movements create. Any patch of water which looks different from the surrounding areas is worth investigating if the bunkers are hard to find.

Although many crim down or remove the barbs on the hooks to decrease injury to the bunkers, I have mixed feelings. A few years ago, I convinced myself that barbless hooks were best; but the first day that I tried them, a 34 pound bass yanked the bunker in one direction while I was pulling in the other. Fortunately, the bass got a good grip and the line never slacked to permit the barbless hook to drop out. However, I immediately went back to using hooks just as they come from the box.

Actually, just as they come from the box is a poor phrase. Big trebles are heavily plated and most are not too sharp. The ends should be touched up with a stone to a needle point before use to ensure good penetration.

I had intended to cover line lining techniques, but I am running out of space, so I will have to close this article with a summary of striped bass prospects for July in Western Long Island Sound.

Years ago, I would anticipate some of the season's best striper fishing in August and September. However, since the early 1970s, a new pattern develops

(Continued on page 45.)

A Party Boat Primer

by Stew Lilker

Party boat fishing is one of the most enjoyable types of fishing. There are literally dozens of boats to choose from on Long Island. The boats will be fishing in sheltered bays, to far offshore, and anywhere in-between. There are half day trips; whole day trips; night trips, and by special reservation, there are even two day trips. You can go alone, with a friend, with your wife, or with your kids. Or you can go with any combination of these.

Most party boats have clean rest rooms for both the men and the ladies. Some have snack bars which serve just about everything from soup to nuts, while others sell only beer and soda. Most party boats have tackle on board. If you don't have your own, you can rent the tackle for a modest charge. Some boats even supply the tackle free. On most trips the bait is included in the price of the trip. Generally, the exceptions to this are worms for flounder fishing and crabs for blackfishing.

How do you go about picking out a party boat? One of the easiest and best ways is to read this magazine. The Long Island Fisherman will not knowingly advertise a boat that is poorly run or maintained. Asking your friends is also a good idea. You will be surprised how many of your buddies regularly go out party boat fishing. Another excellent way to decide on a party boat is to visit a port close to your home a couple of times before you go out. The best time to do this is in the afternoon, when the boats arrive from the day's fishing. You will be able to talk to the captain, mates, and passengers. You will see if the boat caters to the family trade, or is more attuned to just the "men." You can find out if beginners are welcome and if the crew is as the ads say, "courteous and helpful." Don't be afraid to ask questions. Party boats cannot stay in business without your patronage, and you will find most of their crews anxious to help you.

After you have decided on the boat and the type of fishing you want to do, you can begin preparing for your trip. If you have a tendency to get seasick, stop off at your local drug store and pick up a package of motion sickness pills. Take them according to the directions on the package. Don't try and be a hero or think that these pills are for sissies. I've seen salty deck hands looking a little green on quite a few outing onto the briny. And don't wait until you start feeling a little queasy to take the pills—by then it's too late! Generally, one pill is taken an hour before you depart and one on departure. It is a good idea not to eat a couple of gallons of spaghetti and meat balls before you board the boat. Don't eat greasy foods and don't stuff yourself. Eat light—eat right—and stay bright. This way you'll be starting off on the right track.

While on the subject of food—what about lunch? If you decide to go out on one of the new super boats that have Howard Johnson type cafeterias aboard and money is no object, you really don't have to bring anything. These boats sell sandwiches, soup, soda, beer, pretzels, potato chips and just about anything else you might like. However, if you are making this a family outing or your budget is limited, the best idea is to bring your own lunch. I like to roast a chicken the night before. I cut it up and wrap the pieces individually. This way I can munch most of the day. For some reason the salt air gives most people, myself included, giant appetites. So bring plenty of food. Pretzels are a good thing to munch on in-between main courses. If you bring sandwiches, cut them in half and eat them a half at a time. They last a lot longer this way and this keeps you from feeling hungry all the time. Bring plenty of soda and maybe a beer or two. Put it all in a small ice chest and you should be all set. Remember, don't throw your garbage overboard! Use the receptacles provided on the boat. No explanation should be needed for this.

Make sure that you wear enough clothes to keep you warm. Remember, you can always take some off if you get too warm, but you can't put on what you don't have. You're not trying to win a beauty contest, so wear your old clothes. Dungarees and an old shirt will do just fine for the basics. A pair of rubber soled shoes or an old pair of sneakers will keep you from sliding around on the decks when they get a little wet. An old sweat shirt and a wind breaker should keep you comfortable. Listen to the weather reports the night before and let common sense be your guide. Remember, it's usually a bit cooler on the water than on land, so dress accordingly. Wear a hat to keep the sun off your head. It is also a good idea to bring along a rain coat, just in case. You don't want to spend your day in the cabin because you're afraid of catching a cold. And if you do get wet, you are going to be miserable. Unfortunately, the weatherman is not always right—so play it safe.

I usually bring my own tackle whenever I go party boat fishing. I like fishing with light tackle and most party boats have tackle that is on the heavy side. This is so because their tackle is used day after day, by different people with different abilities. Their rods, reels and lines take a beating and must be able to stand up to constant abuse—some intentional, and some not. If you ren the tackle on board and you're not sure how to use it, ask the mate or the captain. They will be glad to show you how. They will also show you how to bait your hooks. They will tell you what sinkers to use and if it is your first time, they will even show you how to fish. Remember though, they can't catch the fish for you. Time and experience will help you do that.

If everyone but you seems to be catching fish, watch them closely. You might see what you are doing wrong. Most party boat fishermen are friendly and if an old-timer sees that you're trying and having no luck, he might offer you some advice. Take this advice graciously and thank him. And when your luck begins to improve, you will realize that it really wasn't luck at all that kept the the fish from finding your baited hook. A nice gesture on your part might be to offer to buy the old-timer a beer—but of course, that's up to you.

When you hear three blasts of the ship's horn, your fishing day is over. On the way back to the dock, the mate will clean the fish for those customers who desire him to do so. On some boats, there is a minimum charge for this, and on others, you may tip the mate whatever you wish. If you would like to clean your own fish, wait for the mate to finish using the fish board. Don't clean your fish on the decks or the seats! This is bad manners and akin to someone coming into your living room and wiping their muddy shoes all over your carpet. In the last few years, I've been noticing that some party boats do not allow the passengers to use the fish cleaning boards at all. If you feel that you would like to clean your own fish, find out if this is the boat's policy before you sail: if it is, avoid that boat.

For a really enjoyable day of fishing, party boat fishing is hard to beat. The crews of these boats will try and make your day as enjoyable as possible. They are out fishing every day and know the likeliest areas to load up on fish. Most boats value your patronage and would like you to become one of their "regulars." So pack your lunch, pack your rod, pack your family and go party boat fishing. And don't forget to tip the mate.

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported that the codfishing has been excellent all week at Coxes Ledge, with the pool fish usually in the high fourties. Fluke fishing is good in the North Rips with more quantity than a week ago. Bluefish have been poor pickings on the night trips, but should improve shortly now that the bluefish have moved in the Western areas and should move east to Montauk.

Captain Jimmy Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** said that the anglers aboard have been making good catches of cod at Coxes Ledge with a few pollack and small silver hake mixed in. The cod are all big, averaging 20 to 25 lbs.

Frida at the **Cove Marina** said that offshore has been good but inshore action has been erratic. Good catches of blue sharks are still being taken, and a few swordfish have been spotted although none have been taken on rod and reel yet. Bluefishing has been picking up at the Submarine buoy for trollers, and the first decent catches of fish have been made at Cartwright fishing herreing baits. The blues there are the usual alligators of 10 to 12 lbs. Bass fishing has been very good at dusk trolling umbrella rigs or single tubes at Outer Shagwong. Fish are in the high twenties and low thirties. Seabass and porgies are being taken in excellent quantities on diamond jigs at the Elbow and on skimmer clams and chumming around the Great Eastern area. Fluke fishing has been fair, with the better fishermen managing to take 25 to 30 fish. Doormats of 9 and 11 lbs. were weighed in at Cove on Sunday. Gin Beach is providing good catches of small fluke. Frida said that the marina will be an official weigh station for the island-wide Bluefish Contest being held on August 27th and 28th, which will be sponsored by the Cooley's Annemia Foundation of Brooklyn for fund raising purposes. Entry fee is !⅓† PER ANGLER WITH A GRAND PRIZE OF $1,000 cash. For further info, give the Foundation a call at 212-449-4661 or Cove Marina.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that he has been fishing both the Lighthouse and North Grounds for porgies with excellent results. High hook on Friday was Rudy James of the Bronx with 74 fish, and high hooker on Saturday was Ervin Garner of Brooklyn with 78 porgies. Sunday's total catch for the day for the boat was well over 2000 pounds of porgies. Ed Bryan of the Bronx let the way with 68 fish. Captain Bud said that with all these fish, there are still a few anglers that only manage a dozen or so for some reason.

Captain John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that although striped bass are being taken every day, the fishing has been erratic and nothing you could count on. Friday's charter took nine bass, all in the 15 to 25 lb. class, on diamond jigs around the Point during incoming water. John said that this is the time of the year to make a full day trip and shoot for Montauk pot pourri... bass at dawn or dusk, porgies

Four electricians from the World Trade Center took nine bass up to 20 lbs. on eight ounce Ava diamond jigs aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charterboat VIVIENNE.

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and seabass around the changes, and fluke, weaks and bluefish in between. John said that he still has some choice open dates left during July and August (between bass runs), so give him a call at 516-668-5130 to set up a charter.

Reports out of Ed Miller's **West Lake Fishing Lodge** are that the bass and bluefishing has not been very good, quite spotty and picky, fluke fishing has been reasonably good and offshore action is excellent. On Sunday the charterboat **Sea Doll** brought in a dusky shark of 306 lbs. that it took in addition to a mess of blue sharks that were tagged and released. Captain John Sweetman of the charterboat **Ebb Tide** has also been tagging and releasing more than his share of blue sharks. The charterboat **Darius II** tagged and released 7 blue sharks on Sunday and 8 on Saturday. Two mako sharks were brought in West Lake over the weekend. The charterboat **Free Spirit** took one of 135 lbs. and the other was taken by one of the marina's private boats. Two swordfish were also harpooned. The charterboat **Barracuda** lost a mako of extimated weight of 250 to 300 lbs. right at the boat. Captain Art Munday of the charterboat Darius has no weekends open during July and August, but the boat is now booking full day trips that combine a half-day of Montauk fluke fishing with a half-day of fishing for alligator bluefish at Cartwright. Herring for bait, no wire line, which is the only way more and more anglers want their bluefish served to them. Call Art at 668-3019 for further info. on these special trips.

Captain Pete Van Alst of the charterboat **Modar II** reported that Al Braddick of Greenlawn took a blue shark that was 9½ feet long and weighed 202 lbs. within sight of the Montauk Lighthouse on a charter Saturday. On Sunday six anglers from Westchester had a field day with blue sharks. Aboard for the charter were Gary and Bob H., Bill Lee, Chris Deering, Clint C. and Dan Sobenko.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to say that fishing has been fair inshore and continues to be excellent offshore. Best catch to come into Monatuk's largest marina this week was a 418 lb. dusky shark, taken on 50-lb. test line by Tony Chimblo on the boat "Ro-Jo." Henry said that most of the marina's boats have been loading up on blue sharks south of the Point, tagging and releasing about ninety percent of the fish caught. Henry's tip of the week: Whole herring for giant bluefish, this Saturday between 10:33 and 11:56 a.m. in 85 feet of water at Cartwright.

Captain Gene Kelly of the charterboat **Sea Doll** called to say that he had a great day of offshore fishing south of Block Island near Shark's Ledge in 150 feet of water. In addition to the blue sharks, his charter took a dusky of 307 lbs. and a really big blue shark of 250 lbs. Gene said that he will be moving the boat up to Gloucester for a short period this September for a few giant bluefin tuna trips. For further info. on arranging one of these charters while the boat is there, call Gene at 668-2019.

Captain Frank Maccaro of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that he found the bass to be spotty on an all-day inshore trip on Saturday, so he let his charter load up on fluke, seabass and porgies. On Saturday night a shark trip was made to 35 miles due south of the Point. Sev en blue sharks were bagged in the 180 to 200 lb. range. Five were tagged and released, two brought back to the dock. Frank said that the water at night was loaded with giant squid of a foot-and-a-half in the chum slick. A few were snagged and fished live, but the other squid just chewed them up. The captain said that the amoung of squid in the water is a good sign for swordfish, marlin and tuna in the weeks to come.

Captain Larry Rodriguez of the charterboat **Tide Runner** called to say that on Saturday he had a charter with employees of the Aetna Insurance Company aboard. They experienced a great day offshore. Maybe the weather couldn't be beat, but the sharks surely were! A number of blue sharks were caught, but only two were brought back to the dock while the rest were all tagged and released. Good news for the trip was that Mike Peng DID NOT get seasick.

Captain Gary Kieffer of the charterboat **Barracuda** called to say that the shark fishing has been excellent, particularly on Sunday when ten blue sharks were tagged and released. Gary also noted somewhat sadly that they dropped a big mako shark in the 250 to 300 lb. range when the fish went under

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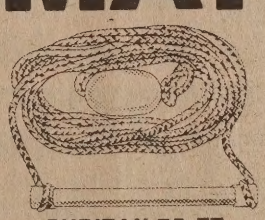

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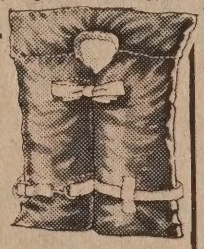

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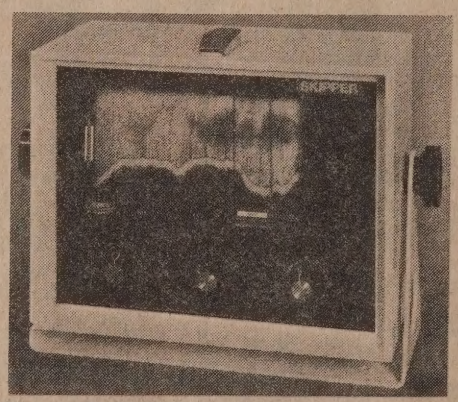

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the boat just prior to gaffing, severing the line.

Ed Miller at **Westlake Fishing Lodge** tells us that the bass and blues are off, but there are plenty of weakfish being taken in their place by many of the charter boats. Lots of porgies and fair fluking plus loads of blue, dusky, brown, and a few thresher sharks. Three big swordfish were brought in this past week.

PROMISED LAND

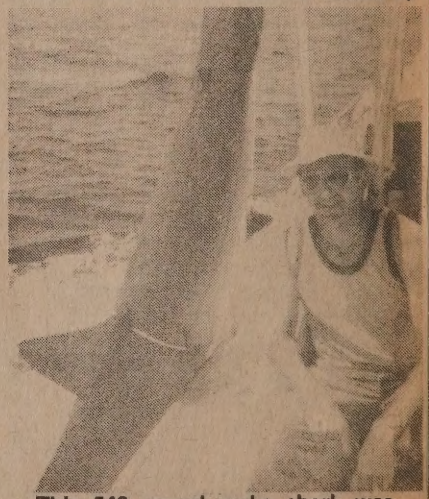
Art Brand at the **Promised Land Fishing Station** reported that the porgy fishing has been holding up very good at can 3 right in front of the station and the areas around both Gardiners and Cartwright Island. The fish are mixed sizes and chumming is very helpful. Art said that the fluke fishing has been slow with anglers only picking a few fish. Bluefish in the 2 to 4 lb. range and weakfish ranging from 4 to 7 lbs. are being taken casting bucktails and trolling umbrella rigs around the Nun buoy off Hicks Island. During the week a few weakfish were also taken on spearing baits being fished for fluke.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox at the **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reported that there are a lot of porgies up to 2 lbs. being taken from the inlet to Cedar Point and down around buoys 6, 7 and 8 by Bonac Creek. Clams with bunker chum are producing best. A few fluke are being taken at Cedar Point, but nothing to talk about. Bluefish in the 3 to 4 lb. range are being trolled on tubes around Crow Shoals.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** reports that on Saturday Paul Panik, Senior and Junior, along with Bill Fales and Phil O'Connell, all of Bellrose Manor fished off the Pink House and took a nice catch of weaks up



This 548 pound mako shark was taken by Don Hayn aboard Capt. Gloria's Kenglo V out of Glen Cove. The fish was caught 14 miles south of the Montauk Light and was weighed in at Montauk Marine Basin. Subscriber Club Photo.

to five pounds on squid using Hi-Lo rigs, with the high hook being most effective. Porgies are also being caught just about all over the bay.

SHINNECOCK

Long Island Fisherman columnist Matt Ahern sailed aboard one of the **Captain Clark Boats** last week and reported that the anglers aboard were cleaning up on medium size porgies on the Peconic Bay wrecks the Captain has been fishing. Worms and skimmer clams were the best bait, said Matt.

HAMPTON BAYS

Jimmy at Corr's Fishing Station reported that porgy fishing in Peconic Bay is holding up, with many anglers taking 39 to 60 porgies in the small and medium size range. Best area is the South Race off Robin's Island with clams and worms for bait. For heavy catches use chum when fish are located. Many anglers have been fishing Peconic Bay in the morning for porgies and Shinnecock Bay for fluke in the afternoon for a good mixed bag. Shinnecock fluking has been steady with most weekday boats taking 8 to 15 good keepers. Best areas are the Channel from the Coast Guard Station to the Ponquogue Bridge and East Channel by Shinnecock Inlet. Use sandeels or shiners with squid teaser. Live killies and small snappers also getting good results.

MORICHES BAY

Tadsen's Fishing Station reports that the fluke fishing was good on Saturday but fell off a little on Sunday for some reason. Best areas have been from buoy 39 down east to buoy 42 and from buoy 27 to 23. The fish are hitting on both tides. The flounder fishing has been slim pickings, with a few fish being picked at Great Gun Beach.

Romona Seifert of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** said that the fluke fishing has been good and is improving. Fishing over the weekend was best on Saturday morning during outgoing water. Many of the boats missed this early tide on Sunday morning, and the catches were down somewhat as a result. Romona said

Ark Chin and sons with 16 fluke to 3 ½ lbs. taken on live killies in the Elbow. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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Phil Praeger and Tom DeCandia with ten fluke to three pounds taken by buoy 39 on killies and squid. Photo Courtesy of Silly Lily's Fishing Station.

thtt Phil Brager and Jack Kossover of Spring Valley were high-hook on Saturday with 20 nice keepers. Romona said that the fluke are just sucking on the bait, so the trick is to use a very light sinker and if you feel the slightest tension on the line, let out more line so that the fish has an opportunity to swollow the bait. the "old-drop-back" trick. Best action for the fluke has been the drop-off at the sandbar drifting between buoys 38 and 39.

MASTIC BEACH

Stiritz Fishing Station reports fluking has been spotty, but the best was from buoy 24-27 on squid, sand eels and spearing. Blues have been spotty, with the best action occurring between buoys 12 and 17 on spearing and on salty dogs. These fish are up to 2½ pounds. A few weakfish at buoy 19 on salty dogs. Some sea bass and blacks at the bridges on worms and clam. Blueclaws have started in traps.

SAYVILLE

Youngs Fishing Station informs us that John Parasconda, Al Morgan, Dr. Pine, and Jack Miller had over 140 weakfish, fishing early Saturday using salty dogs with squid strips off Ocean Beach. Some fluke and blow fish are also being taken off Ocean Beach and at Fire Island Pines.

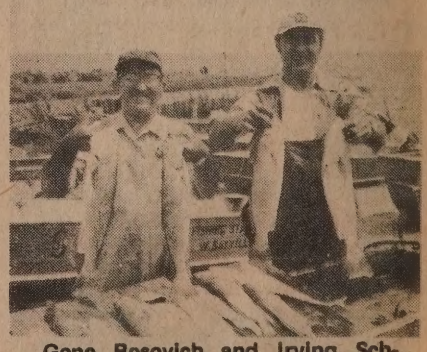
Capt. John Burgess of the charter boat **Eljon II** called to say that his new 31-foot Baja is in the water and that on Sunday he had a seven foot blue shark along wth with a five foot blue and a five foot mako, plus four other blue sharks which were released. That's really christening the new boat, John.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports that fluking was the most productive this week, with buoys 28 and 29 off Heckscher producing best, fish running 2-3½ pounds. John and Lorraine Bucalo took 22 weaks, two fluke and three blues, just east of buoy 30, Heckscher on squid strips, weaks running to five pounds, blues to 2½ pounds, all on incoming. Snappers all over the place up to a half pound on spearing and small frozen killies. Blueclaws are increasing, and a lot of soft shells around. Some kings at buoy 28 on clam. Blows in Nichol Bay.

OAKDALE

Capt. Irv Levine of the charter boat **Big Red** called to say that his crew of Billfish Bob and mate Mike Buxt on their day off, captained the Dry Well on Friday and came up as a result, with four white marlin at the canyon. Two were released and two taken home for mounts. Weights were 81-3/3 pounds and 43 pounds. These were taken on mullet and squid. They released one yellowfin tuna going 250 pounds approxmately, and one bull dolphin. Irv says he still has choice weekdays and weekends



Gene Bosovich and Irving Schwartzman with 16 weaks up to 5 ½ lbs. caught on squid and salty dogs just east of buoy 30. Photo courtesy of South Bay Fishing Station.

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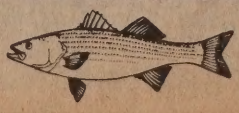

vailable on Big Red and North Star. here are many blue sharks and ham- ierheads and duskys around. Irv also arns for you offshore skippers to watch ut for the many large wood skids that re floating offshore. Which are big, eavy, and waterlogged.

CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the open oat **Captree Queen** called to say that it oks like the fluke fishing is finally oing to take off in Great South Bay. On unday's afternoon trip, the Captain cated a new body of fish around the Vreck Buoy, buoy 20 and the Robert loses Bridge that had just moved into ie bay from the ocean. Flurries of 20 to) fish on at a time were common and it as difficult for the netters to keep up ith the rapid pace. The short trip ended ith over 200 fish on the decks that anged from 1½ to 3 lbs. This action took lace on the last of the flood and the first f the ebb, prime time for fluking. ordon also said that Snakehill Channel etween buoys 10 and 13 and the north nd of West Island are also producing me decent catches of fluke in the bay, ut Sunday's fishing was the best of the ear thus far.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter-boat **Lady Ann** said the fluke fishing has been poor to fair, with the boat taking from 50 to 100 keepers per trip. On Thursday the boat sailed open from Ocean Beach and took 81 fluke for seven passengers, a very good trip. Neil said that 60 bluefish in the 8 to 10 lb. range were taken on Friday night's reservation trip. About a hundred other blues either spit the hook or broke the lines of anglers.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that the bluefishing has picked up to excellent proportions and it looks like a good year is in store for all. Chum hasn't been working too well as the blues are spooky and are feeding on sandeels, but Ava Green Bananas have been murdering the fish. The bananas are just let out on free spool, then retrieved to the boat at a moderate speed. Over 300 blues in the 5 to 12 lb. range were taken on Sunday using this method fishing to Manasquan Ridge, a two hour ride from the jetties for the speedy **Speedy VI**. The captain said that anglers had as many as 16 fish on at one time, which caused quite a commotion for the gaffers. The action for choppers at night has been a little picky, with the exception of Wednesday night when 300 fish were taken. High man had 39 big fish. Speedy said that you have to get out

Shown here is pretty Patricia Litwin with a 26 lb. 4 oz. tilefish which was one of five she caught on the June 12/13 trip aboard the SPEEDY VI out of Captree.

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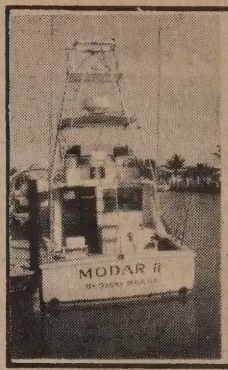

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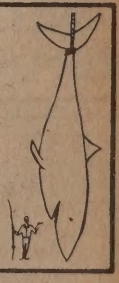

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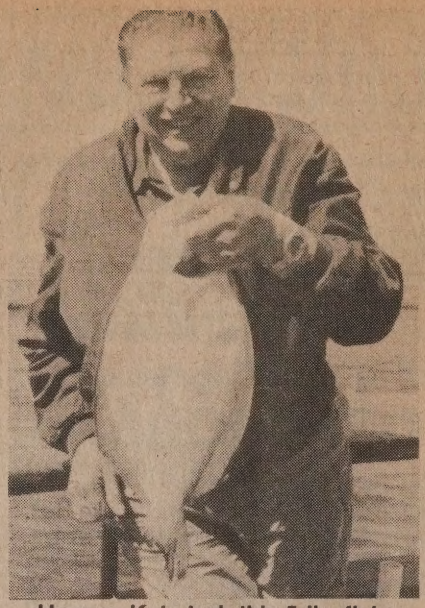

Herman Katz took this 5 lb. fluke on the Capt. Rod out of Captree using killie bait. Subscriber Club Photo.

into the warmer water of 71 to 74 degrees and find the schools of sandeels and squid to get any bluefish action. The water inshore is only 67 to 68 degrees and is almost barren of life.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** called to say that he started bluefishing Friday night south of the Cholera Banks with good results. On Friday 8 anglers took 55 blues up to 16 lbs., and over 100 choppers were taken on Saturday. The boat is sailing at 6 p.m. every night for these big fish.

EAST ISLIP

Wet A Line Bait and Tackle tells of fluke off of Ocean Beach on sand eels and squid. Still some weaks off Heckscher on sand worms and some bass on live eels under the Moses Bridge.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports some stripers at the Moses Bridge on eels and also on clam chum. Tom Burns had a 41 pound striper which he weighed in at The Store, on a live eel. Fair fluking on both sides of the store, with a four and six pound fish weighed in during the week. Some blues in the Inlet, morning and evening hours. Weakfish also, outgoing working best. The weaks are being taken on Tri-Fins in white and also on pink salty dogs with white heads. Snappers of the eight inch variety are being caught.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports Sal Scibico of Bay Shore nailed a 14 pound bluefish on Friday night while bassing in front of the Coast Guard Station on a live eel, while he broke off two bass at the boat. Mike Johnson of Bayside took an 18 pound eight ounce bass on live eel in front of the Coast Guard Station on Tuesday night. Weaks are being taken in the Bay on sand worm drifted out. These weaks are in good numbers. Blues at Snake Hill and Dickerson's Channel on small Striper Swipers. Fluking has picked up in the last week off South Beach, West Channel and the State Channel on squid and sand eels. Weaks on the outside from Democratic Point on east on white and black umbrellas. Tony Giaccone on Saturday had a five pound, eight ounce weak on sand worms from the beach. An unknown angler had 25 big weaks on sand worm from the beach at Democratic Point. Blues in the mouth of F. I. Inlet in the morning and late afternoon on Hopkins and small Striper Swipers. A big body of blues has been seen around the pound nets on Thursday morning in an area of about an acre. Some snappers at Bay Shore Marina and the Maple Avenue dock along with some crabs.

BABYLON

Mario at **HI Hook Fishing Station** tells us that Margie and Charie Kennedy nabbed a 4½ pound fluke plus seven other keepers from Snake Hill Channel on Friday. Joe, Jerry, John, and John, Jr. also took a 4½ pound fluke from Snake Hill, all on squid and sand eels. Joe Vicaro bagged a 26½ pound striper fishing the Inlet with a live eel. Mario's skiffs are taking mainly fluke and some small blues and Mario says there's lots of action.

Babylon Fishing Station reports really good fishing over the weekend with some nice fluke brought in. Sol Appel had a dozen good keepers up to 4½ pounds from Snake Hill on killies and squid. Snake Hill seems to be very productive this past week. The Inlet has been good in the evenings for weaks, blues, and stripers on a wide variety of bait and lures. Some small weaks are being taken along with fluke on fluke rigs.

Glenn Yachechak took these bass of 51½, 25, and 16 pounds by spear gun on the outgoing tide at East Moriches Inlet. The fish were weighed in at HI-Way Marina. Subscriber Club Photo.

LINDENHURST

Charlies Bait and Tackle tells of bass at Democratic Point and the Sore Thumb for surfcasters, with weakfish mixed in. A hot lure right now seems to be an A27 jig with a surge tube on the business end and also Kastmasters. Scattered bluefish in 80 to 90 feet of water. Nick Russo and Joey G. had bass of 28, 33, 35, and 38 lbs. on bellies at the artificial reek this week. Nick also got himself a 9 lb. 8 ounce fluke. Good numbers of stripers being caught on bellies under the F.I. bridge. Best bait is a live bunker if you can get it. George of **Charlies West Bait and Tackle** had a 7 and a 3½ lb. fluke along with a 2½ lb. porgy at a secret spot of his at F.I. Inlet using shiners and sand eels. Fluking is hot and cold, with the best results coming this past week from in front of the Coast Guard Station, the Inlet and the State Channel. The biggest are from the inlet. Blueclaws are around, but small. A couple of makos were taken about 35 miles out.

The Seahorse reports that fluking is not bad but there are a lot of shorts being caught. He is fishing the state Channel, east and west channels, the Amity Cut and Gilgo Beach and is taking 15-20 fish per person but beacuse of the high throw back percentage, only 5 keepers per person were taken up to 5 lbs.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports good bass fishing on clam bellies from Kismet to Democratic Point, with the best being at the bridges. Some guys are getting from 6 to 14 fish per tide. Off the Amityville Cut, blues up to 4 lbs. are being taken on small metal lures. Fluking has picked up Friday through Sunday at F.I. Inlet and in the State Channel and in the Bay on live killies and sand eels. Snappers are in the canals, but they are small but taking shiners and live killies.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle announces the first tuna out of F.I. Inlet was taken on July 7th by Joe Carriong on the Miss Marion, with Dick Svoboda at the helm. The yellowfin was 217 pounds 8 ounces, and was taken at the Canyon on Cedar jigs. It took four hours on 50 pound class tackle. Joe is a member of BTC. Stan Kanarrens on the Dolphin K caught a 117 pound hammerhead shark south of the H.A. over the weekend. Fred Dombo, Sr. and Jr. had three brown sharks and a fish box full of blues for the Squadron anglers this past week. This weekend saw the best fluking in several weeks with Squaw Island, Goose Creek and the east side of Ft. Neck Pt. working best with spearing number one and killies working second best. Good weaks at Gilgo Lead and the State Channel with shrimp chum and sand worms drifted out. These fish are 2-4 lbs. Bass very good from the Seaford Yacht Club up to Dentons Pond Point on bellies. F.I. Inlet from the Lighthouse to the sore thumb has been producing good striper fishing on eels and on white/purple Sekora rigs.

MASSAPEQUA

Massapequa Tackle and Sports reports fluke has picked up over the weekend, with best areas being Squaw Island, Four Corners and Jones Inlet on shiners and squid. Some bass are being chummed at the entrance to Zach's Bay and the Measured Mile. Blues are being trolled to the southeast at the 100 foot line with umbrellas and bananas.

SEAFORD

Salice Fishing Station reports plenty of fluke again over this weekend, with high hook being 22 keepers for one man, fish going up to 3½ pounds. Charlie says the best area is Four Corners this week and weekend, though the fish are generally ranging all over the bay. Sand eels and squid seem to be working fine. Some small blues at the bridges on fluke rigs, along with a few weakfish mixed in.

The fluking has improved, reports **Lon Wanser's Bait and Tackle**, with West and Squaw Island and Unqua Pt. with sand eels working best. Bass chumming has been very good at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges along with Tobay at the State Channel. Blues have been taken in good numbers south of Cholera by those trolling at the 105-110 foot line, up to 80 fish per boat and bluefishing continues to build.

BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supplies** reports fluke has picked up with the best being in the shallow areas, trolling sand eels and bucktails against the tide. Stripers are being chummed at the local bridges in satisfactory numbers. Morty Harris bagged a 30 lb. 8 oz. striper plus a few smaller fish all on clam chum. A 55 pounder also fell to clam chum at Short Beach for angler X. Chum is the name of the game, gentlemen. Plenty of blue shark (and whales) offshore. Good chopper blues south of Cholera, mainly trolling green tubes. Blueclaws starting.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that the fluking has bounced back over the weekend with best results coming from Ned's Creek, the far end of Broad Creek and Carmen's Cut on killie and squid. 24 keepers for the boat Broker Dan with the last of incoming and the ebb best. Jimmy has been weighing good numbers of chummed bass. On Friday morning, Marty Bright of Bellmore brought in a 36 pound 8 ounce striper, chummed at the second Wantagh plus five schoolies taken on the ebb. Blues being trolled offshore but you have to find them first.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports that Jim Johnson came in with a load of big bluefish taken southeast of Cholera, fish up to 12 lbs. Steve Slane had a 20 lb. 4 oz. blue. This was all on umbrellas. Plenty of fluke in Middle Bay on killies and squid. Crabs are picking up.

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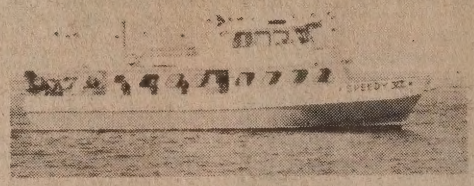

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Starstream II** reports excellent fishing all week and weekend for sea bass and huge ling. Richie will be staying with these eagerly biting species until the time that the blues decide to stay put. Some men are getting 40-50 fish. A couple of cod are caught each trip as they are still on the cold water wrecks and a 15 lb. pollack took Saturday's pool.

The charter boat **Sea Egg** called to say that on Saturday Fred Luhrs and party had 15 brown shark up to 100 lbs. and that on Sunday Frank Martin and party trolled up 20 bluefish up to 20 lbs. Bill asked us to tell you that there are still some choice weekdays available. Fishing was done with diamond jigs and bananas.

The **Blue Fin II** reports that on Saturday fishing 22 miles south of Cholera they took 25 bluefish, mostly on bananas and A27s, fish up to 15 lbs. Fares had to work for their fish and caught on a fast retrieve. On Sunday, the Bluefin and the Bluefin II both went for fluke. The Double T Fishing Club of Elmont had 50 keepers with Peggy Russo and Capp Stephens both getting fish just under three pounds. Jerry Kappuff got the Club trophy for fluke with a 2 lb. 10 oz. fish. Both boats got about 50 fish and fishing was done mainly in Reynolds channel on incoming. Capt. Warren Kline running the night trips on the big boat had good bluefishing Saturday night with the Atlantic Anglers and Eastern Anglers at Cholera. They caught in the 30s and lost an equal number, all on bait and chum.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports fluke has picked up over the weekend with an average of 15 fish per boat. Swift Creek and Fundey produced best with good keepers. Killies work best. Some sea bass at the bridges on sand worms. Some snappers around. The charter boat Sea Bee called to say that on Saturday, Roy, Nick, Kay and Pete, all teachers at Mineola High School had 12 shark at the HA - all shark being tagged and released. On Sunday, Jack Pulis, Steve Mertens and Jack Moore had 10 sharks in 135 feet of water southeast of Jones Inlet. This are all NYC Firemen.

The **Lucky Strike III** reports that fluking has picked up. On Saturday fluke averaging 3 lbs were taken in Jones Inlet -Freeport area. The pool fish averaged 5 lbs. On Sunday ling were taken outside and a few blues were also hooked but none were boated.

The **Miss Freeport** reports that on Tuesday morning Pete the Undertaker took fluke of 6 and 4 lbs. fishing in Jones Inlet. The Reib Bar and Grill of Manhatten had a very good day with high man taking 8 fluke and a total of 65 fish for 17 people. The **Miss Freeport** will be sailing open on Tues, Wed. and Fri. at 7:30 a.m. for fluke.

Roy at **Mako Marina** informs us that his **LONG ISLAND OPEN SHARK TOURNAMENT** was held on Saturday and Sunday with the $5,000 cash prize going to Paul Bardenhagen of the Hudson Anglers, with a 220 pound blue shark taken at the H.A. area. Second place with a 197 mako went to Victor M. Aiello fishing on George Saers 31 foot Bertram. Victor smiled broadly as he collected the $1,000 second prize. Roy says that there are tons of bluefish from the 100 foot mark on out and they are being trolled deep.

Capt. Arnold of the charter boat **Shalidon** called to say that while fishing in the Long Island Open Shark Tournament Saturday and Sunday, he and Fred Bosche hooked and released two tiger sharks and two duskys. Two other duskys were brought back. Fred and Arnold each had a tiger.

The **Aloma** reports a good weekend with an average catch of a 5 gallon can of ling from 1½ to 2 lb. and up to 4½ lbs. for the pool few. The fish were taken along with a few seabass at Cholera, Middle Grounds and other rocky areas.

The **Capt. Hall** reports that fishing has

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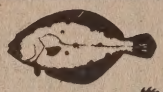

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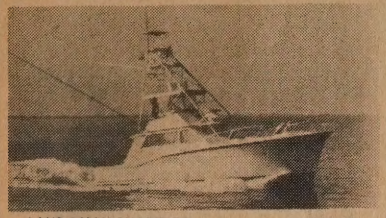

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been consistent this past week. On Monday hi-hook took 11 keeper fluke and Tuesday hi-hook had 16 fluke. This Sunday hi-hook took 8 keepers. Most fish are averaging 2 lbs. with 2-6 keepers per person fishing the back bays and creeks. The pool fish weighing from 3-4 pounds. The **Lucky Strike III**

POINT LOOKOUT

The charter boat **Marie III** called to report that on their way out to some shark fishing on Friday they spotted a lot of commotion on the water, threw out Ava 27s and in a ten minute flurry in 90 feet of water, jigged up eight weaks to seven pounds and four blues to 12 pounds. They wound up the day with four duskys for Jack Dennison and party. On Saturday, they jigged bluefish which were feeding on red squid to the tune of 43 blues ranging from 7 to 12 lbs., with a 14 lb. chopper taking the pool. On Sunday the boat fished bottom and took mostly ling with a few sea bass and fluke. The Marie III will be running open for blues Fridays and Sundays, at 7 AM.

Ed's Fishing Station reports that Bruno Grabiec and Walt Stevens of New Jersey took 50 fluke trolling the flats with spearing, sandeels and killies. On Sat. Benny Kozuch took 30 nice sized fluke on spearing. The fluke action is improving in the channel. Flounder action can still be had at buoy 15 and Swift Creek. Meadowbrook Bridge is producing blacks, seabass and porgies.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports clam chumming is producing bass at the bridges. Bill Beckmann and Frank Keating took 5 bass on Friday from 15 to 25 lbs. fishing the Captree Bridge. Blues are being caught along the beaches on Danny plugs, poppers and swimmers and on live eels at night. Sand porgies are in the bays and fluking is slow.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Hennings Fishing Station tells of nice fluking action in Reynolds channel at buoys 5 and 7 east of the bridge, with 12 to 19 fluke per boat, if you knew your stuff, using sand eels and squid. Chummers are taking bass at night under the bridge. Some surf casters are getting bass on clam baits off the immediate beaches, but that is spotty. The silver point jetty is producing very good blackfishing on fiddlers. Blues south of Cholera are a very strong item, trolling umbrellas and Bingle gorillas. On Sunday, big green bananas retrieved slowly worked well. Blue and dusky sharks offshore.

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the **Kim** reports sharking off this week, that he ran 55 miles on Sunday with only one dusky for the effort. Ron says there are plenty of jumbo bluefish out there, along with mucho squid which he has been jigging with Ava 27s. All these blues are 15-20 pounds and have been in 80-100 feet of water. Party boats and private boats are sitting on them. There are still

Marv Sperling, Kurt Huebner, Jerry Brunell, and Dave Goldberg, with ten fish to 25 lbs. taken aboard the KIM on Danny plugs and Lupo umbrellas at Breezy Point.

bass at Breezy Point for those who know how to fish for them. Ron says that in two weeks of sharking in a 50 mile radius of Atlantic Beach, that he has yet to find clean, blue water.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that quite a few small snappers are in Jamaica Bay. Sand porgies can be acught at the North and South Channel Bridge, Marine Parkway Bridge and in Jamaica Bay. Weakfish and bass are being caught at night at the bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells us that Sunday was very good for the party boat bluefishing at Manasquan with green bananas working best. Fluking has picked up considerably at Riis Park and Coney Island on sand eels, spearing and squid. Small snappers and porgies at the bridges plus some sea bass. Stripers a pretty good thing on clam bellies, off Staten Island's south shore and also at the Marine Parkway bridge at dusk.

The **Elsie K III** tells us that last Sunday Rose Pontony took the fluke pool with a 7½ pounder. On one drift at the Tin Can, 40 fluke of the keeper variety came over the rail. The fluking has picked up considerably and catches are much stronger now.

The New Eagle reports fluke fishing to be so-so and bluefishing getting better. The boat was fishing up and down the Jersey coast with a few fish per person from 2-3 lbs. taken. A few bluefish were taken to 10 lbs. at the HA buoy.

The Big Mohawk II reports that on Friday, fishing 32 miles out of Fire Island Inlet big bluefish from 10-12 lbs. and pool fish to 14 lbs. were taken on bait and green bananas. On Saturday they fished east of the mud hole and found acres and acres of bluefish that didn't want to cooperate. On Sunday, the **Big Mohawk II** was fluking in Ambrose Channel and at the state park at Sandy Hook and averaged 4-5 keepers from 2½ to 3½ pounds per person.

The Chief reports that fluking was pickey fishing the Jersy Highlands,

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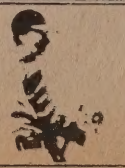
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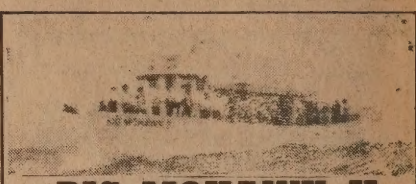

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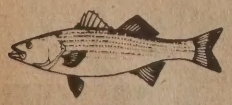

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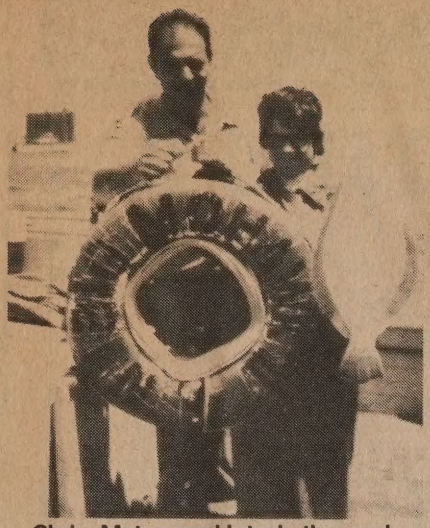

Chris Matuszewski took the pool aboard the big mohawk II with this fluke. Subscriber Club Photo

Sandy Hook and Ambrose. On Saturday blues were taken off of Cholera. 5-8 fish were taken per person from 6-12 lbs. on bunker and smelts.

The Blue Sea III reports that on Saturday the fluking was slow but on Sunday the action improved with 4-5 fluke being taken per man from both the Rockaway and Jersey sides. Bluefishing was good on Wed. and Thurs. in the Klondike area. Fish from 5-15 lbs. were taken on bananas and jig and on bait at night. On Friday and Sat. fishing was done at Cholera, where 6-12 fish per person to 15 lbs. were taken.

STATEN ISLAND

Santos Sport Shop reports that weakfish are being taken up to 12½ lbs. at the Verazano bridge. The average catch is ranging anywhere from 2 to 21 fish taking drifted sandworms or trolling Bingle bananas or lancers. Weakfish are being produced at Chapel Hill Channel, buoy 4-Annadale and buoys 39 and 42 in Princess Bay. Blues from 2 to 3 lbs. are being taken while trolling for weaks. Fluke fishing is fair at buoy 4 Annadale, Great Kills Bug Light and the Old Orchard Light House. The best surf action for bass is at Penny Beach and Cliff Street up to 16½ lbs. on worms, danny Plugs or Atom Swimmers. Fort Wadsworth and Tottenville is producing a fair pick on fluke.

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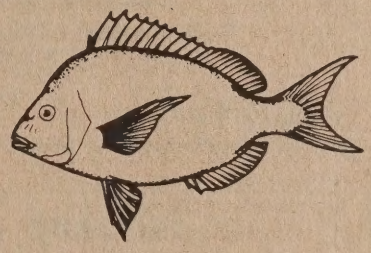

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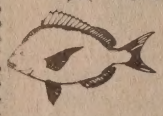
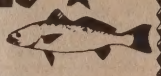


BRAND X

8 AM DAILY



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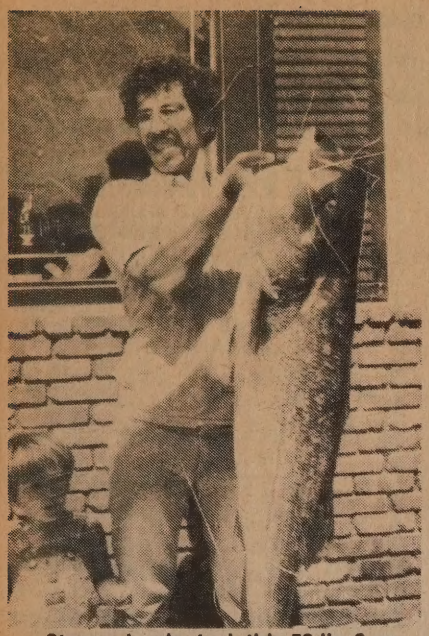
L.I.F. subscriber Randy Abramson with a 10 lb. fluke caught on squid and sand eels aboard their private boat out of Captree. Subscriber Club Photo.



Steven Jacobs took this 50 lb. 6 oz. bass at Plum Gut on a drifted yellow bucktail. Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait and Tackle.

GREENPORT

The **Wilhelric** reports good porgy fishing at South Ferry and Cedar Point. The porgies are averaging ½ to 1 lb. and 20-50 fish are being caught per person. The **Wilhelric** will be fishing Gardiners again as the fishing is getting better in this area.

A.P. White Bait Shop reported very good weakfishing off Hortons Point. Last Sunday John Columbus jigged up 60 weaks all by himself. East of the ruins the fluke fishing is picking up. The charter boat **Striper** had 80 fluke last Saturday. If you want bass, try around Old Silas Rock, drifting live bunker, eels or bucktails. Blues are hitting on the flood tide at Jessups. Boats drifting off the Greenport jetty are getting fluke and weaks. Green Hill is the place for porgy fishing.

SOUTHOLD

Pete at **Port of Egypt** reported the Orient Point Station is now open. Pete was happy to report the fluke are in off Truman's Beach on the inside of buoy 3. Porgies in the 1½ to 2½ pound range are in Petty's Bight. Blackfishing at Plum Gut Light and Mulford Point. In the bay there are porgies around one pound at buoys 16, 17 and 18. Small blues are at Jessups taking 3-4 ounce diamond jigs. Over the weekend Irv Friedman weighed in a 6½ pound fluke from the Orient Station that was the biggest of 9. Last Saturday one boat came in with 18 fluke from that area. If you want to rent a boat from the Orient Station, call the main station for details.

NEW SUFFOLK

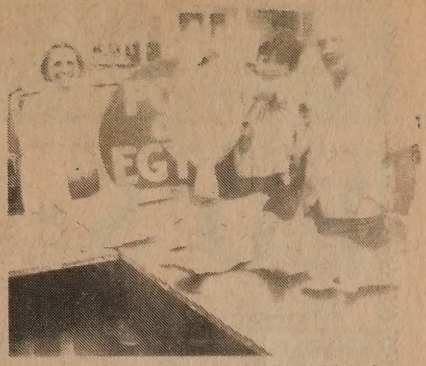
Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that porgies from 3/4 to one pound are being taken at buoy 22 and 29 on worms and clams. Weakfish have slowed but can be caught from two to three lbs. at Roses Grove. Some nice kingfish are being taken at Roses Grove on a bottom hook. Blues averaging 1½ lbs. are being taken on the South Race on bucktails and Rag Mops.

AQUEBOGUE

Warrens Tackle Center reports that porgies are at buoy 23 in Peconic and all over the sound from 1 to 1½ lbs. Blackfish are being caught at the Pipeline on fiddlers and hermits. Small blues from 2 to 3 lbs. and weakfish from 5 to 7 lbs. are being taken trolling lead line with umbrellas at buoy 5.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgies are all over and can be taken on sandworms. Weakfish are in the bay from one to two lbs. Bluefish and weaks are being caught at Horton's Point on umbrellas. White is the best color for weaks, while bluefish are hitting red best. Some bass are starting to show in the area. Blackfish are still plentiful along the sound beaches and are taking bloodworm bait.



Jean Christopher and Ray Hamilton with 14 fluke taken on squid and sand eels at buoy 3 near Truman's Beach. The fish averaged three to five pounds and ran up to 8 ½ lbs. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt's Orient Point Station.

ROCKY POINT

The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reorts that fluke are being picked up at the dropoff at buoys 9 and 11 on sand eels or squid combos. Blues and weaks are being caught up to 9 AM at buoy 9 and 11. Wading River is producing bass on

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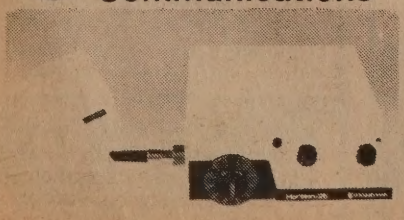

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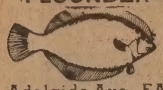

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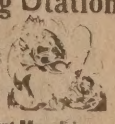

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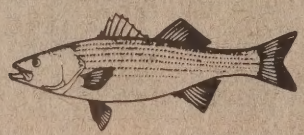

live eels and bunker chunks. Lots of porgies from 1 to 1¼ lbs. are being caught from Cedar east to Wading River. Cedar Beach and Miller Race are producing some blowfish.

SELDEN

Anglers Den reports that George Grosselfinger took a 40 lb. 8 oz. bass fishing live eels at Moriches. Barney Kessler took a 30 lb. 14 oz. bass on a Sekora parachute at Plum Gut. Blues are being taken at buoys 9 and 11 from three to five pounds along with weakfish to 8½ lbs. on umbrellas in early morning. The winners of the Anglers Den June derby are as follows: Sal Marengeo with a 10 lb. blackfish, Jim Holman, Jr. with a 11½ lb. fluke; Mike Gross with a 12 lb. 3 oz. bluefish; Mike McDonald with a 46 lb. bass and Rudy De Maria with a 8½ lb. weakfish.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that porgies are being caught off the harbor and along the beaches up to 1-3/4 lbs. One porgie came in that tipped the scales at 3½ lbs. Fluke are being caught along the beach drifting sandeels, killies and squid and are just over keeper size, averaging 2-3 lbs. and on Saturday, a 8½ pounder came in. Weakfish are mixed in with the porgies.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports bass fishing was red hot from Wednesday on. Wednesday morning Bob caught a fish of 18 lb. 4 oz. on an umbrella rig off Callahan's Beach. Wednesday night Roger Olsen took a fish of 15 lb. 8 oz. on a spreader rig. Thursday, Jerry Kollner caught a 26 lb. 14 oz. bass. On Friday, Arnold Discorsi took fish of 39-3/4 and 38½ lbs. w hile John Kollner caught bass of 33½ and 25 lbs. 12 oz. On Saturday Jerry Kohner returned and came up with a fish of 30 lb. 8 oz. On the bottom scene John Zic of Northport weighed in a 3 lb. 10 oz. sea bass on Saturday that topped off a catch of porgies to 3 lbs. In general, the porgie fishing remained excellent while fluking was downright horrible.

NORTHPORT

Fred at **Chainlocker** tells us that the best news from the area is that a large school of bunker have moved into the area. Large concentrations of the fish can be found in the sound from Lilco to Eaton's Neck, Northport Bay and Northport Harbor. Big blues will be in within a week. Worm drifters can now switch to live bunker dunking and chunks in the Marshall Field-Target Rock area, Eatons Neck and the Brickyard. Oyster Bay has been giving up some sizable bass and weaks at night during the week. Small snappers are in the harbor and can be caught off the Northport dock. Youngsters should check into the store as our weekly snapper derby will begin any day now. Porgies are still the standby. Bushels of these fish can be had from anywhere in the area. Fluking continued slow but sharpies using live snappers are into fish to five lbs. The scene can change any day now, so feel free to drop into the store or call at 261-9693.

Tom at **Bowmans Sporting Goods** reported the snappers showed up. Right now they are small but they will grow in time. The town dock is the place for porgies. Ted Fostner and Anthony Bossome got 40 porgies there. Robert McNaughton had 52 porgies from Northport Beach by the boat ramp. Weakfishing is productive from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. trolling worms to the east of Eaton's Neck. Average size has been 7 pounds. Fluke fishing is down and bass fishing slacked off. There are some smaller blues at Duck Island and near Lilco. No bigger blues reported last week.

PORT JEFFERSON

New in the area will be the new **Port Jeff Ace** which will start sailing this weekend. See ad for details. Bruce Cash will be running charters on the **Albatross** featuring special afternoon fluke and porgy trips.

Caraftis Brothers Fishing Station reported continued good porgy fishing. Fluke fishing is good with the outgoing tide the best. Blues and weaks hit trolled umbrella rigs at Middle Ground and Mt. Misery Shoal. There were more weaks than blues. Some nice bass hit the rigs

The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

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Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet		

FREEPORT Aloma II

from last Tuesday through Thursday. Some school bass are hitting floated worms in the narrows of Conscience Bay.

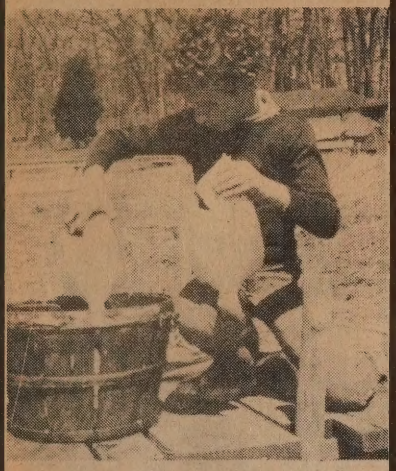
CENTEREACH

Chuck at **Bait Bucket** tells us that John Isaacs of Centereach fishing out of Port Jeff harbor at buoy 9 took fluke up to 5 lbs. 8 oz., using rigs with sliding tail hooks over the weekend. Elaft Gilamulla had eight blues averaging eight pounds each off the Fire Island Lighthouse or surge tubes. Plenty of porgies at North Shore's Cedar Beach from the pier, beach, and from boats on clam and worm. Blueclaws are starting to show from Smith Point to Bellport.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Tackle** reports that small blues from 2-4 lbs. are being trolled on umbrellas or small spoons in Cold Spring Harbor, Crab Meadow and at Lilco. 20 to 40 fish have been taken per boat. Weakfish are taking drifted sandworms before daylight and at dusk. Bass are being trolled at the rips at Eaton's Neck on red tubes and are being live eeled up to 20 lbs. at Macamah and Marshall Field. Porgies from one to two pounds can be caught at buoys 13 and 11B off Eaton's Neck. Smaller fish can be found at Marshall Field.

WANNA CATCH FLOUNDER?



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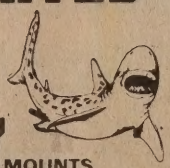

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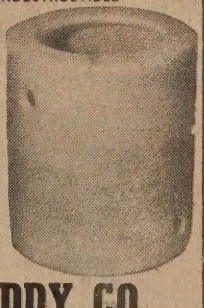

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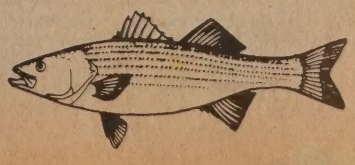

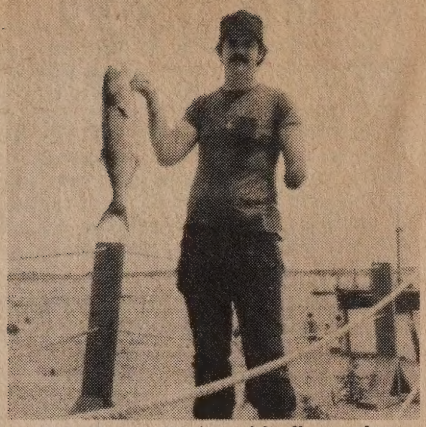

Neil Curry displays his first prize winning bluefish of 6 lbs. 9 oz. in the MAE'S WAY FISHING STATION July 4 Bluefish Derby.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports Shop reports nice sized bass and weaks are being taken, but most of the time the fishermen can't get the fish to hit artificials because of the abundance of sand eels in the water. Porgies and butterfish are hitting sand worms along the shoreline. Three to five pound blues are spotty but can be caught on bunker chunks. Snappers are in solid off Pryble Beach and Garvey Pt. and can be caught on spearing and float or small

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reports some very good porgy fishing but very few blackfish. It's been a very poor year for blacks. Lots of bunker in the bay but no bluefish. Some school bass around plus there's a rumor somebody caught a 32 pound striper last Sunday. There 's a couple of fluke farther up the Sound. Last week the **North Star** had an 11 pounder on board. Small snappers are in the area but they're so small they're really not worth catching.

NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI** said he's been running up to Mattituck for pretty decent catches of small blues and big weaks. Last Sunday's catch produced 200 big weakfish up to 12 pounds taken on diamond jigs. At times as many as a dozen anglers had fish on at once. Pete also told of some very good bass action in the Ft. Slocum-Harts Island area. Last week one fellow Pete knows took 6 fish between 18 and 37 pounds trolling worms. Plus fish in the 40's and on 50 were taken on cut mackerel.

GROTON

Dottie at **Ken's Tackle Shop** reported that fluke fishing was pretty good off Napatree and Isabella on sandeels and shiners. Bluefish are scattered and you really have to hunt for them. Weakfish are the same way. Porgy fishing is decent at buoy 26. Flounders are still around in the deeper water off Stonington. Blackfishing is excellent. One customer bought 8 dozen crabs last Saturday and came back on Sunday to buy 17 more dozen. He said they quit fishing at 1 p.m. on Saturday because they ran out of room to put the fish. Dottie mentioned buoy 6 is a good bet for blacks. Bass were taken out in the Race on green bucktails and some school fish were taken under thr bridges in the river on Mirrolures.

Capt. George Glas of the **Hel-Cat** gave us the following report on fluke fishing. There's an old expression, "You gotta know the territory." The captains who know the Montauk rips and how to fish them are producing fine catches of fluke for their fares. Yes, on an occassional day even if you stood on your head and

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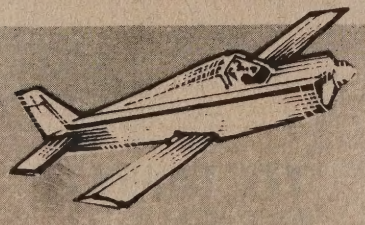

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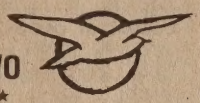
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whistles Dixie, the fish might not be very cooperative. But such days are few and far between, we are happy to say.

This week's winner in the **Hel-Cat's** Fluke contest is John Dimm, of Springfield, Mass., with a 6 pound 8 ounce fluke. Anglers still have a chance to get in on the contest as the boat will be fluke fishing for a while yet. We've been asked so many times when we are going to start bluefishing, and we still give the same answer, the **Hel-Cat** will go bluefishing only when the blues are in in sufficient numbers to satisfy our anglers, and that is not now.

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To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 25 cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the serial number off their *Subscription Card* with the order. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts on extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%, and 50 times, 15%.

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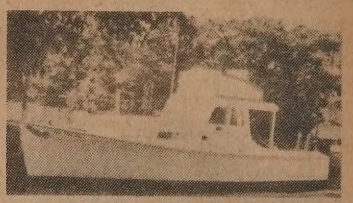

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FISHING LONG ISLAND SOUND

(Continued from page 16.)

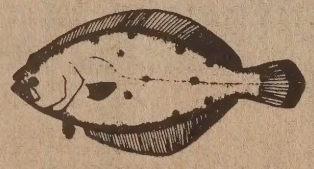
each season. The fishing gradually builds up during May and June and peaks by the middle of July, After that, it is all downhill, except for an occasional flurry.

Action started late this past spring, probably due to the lower water temperatures resulting from the severe winter. Little Neck Bay and the Turtle Cove area in back of City Island sometimes report a few fish by early March. However, it was well into April before there was any indication of action.

By mid-May, the sharpies from Rye and Mamaroneck, west through New Rochelle were scoring pretty well on school fish with artificials.

Around the middle of June, the bunker schools had arrived, and brought some big bass and a smattering of bluefish with them. Even the area from the Byram River east through Greenwich, Cos Cob, Stamford, and Norwalk, began to see some action. The fish were hitting even earlier at Compo Beach in Westport and across the Sound at Eaton's.

By the time that this column reaches readers, fishing should be near its season peak in the whole of Western Long Island Sound.



Harry Brown took this striper of 48 pounds 5 ozs. aboard the Happy Hooker on a live eel. Photo courtesy of Augie's Bait and Tackle.

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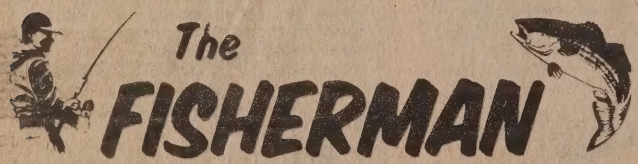

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NO. BABYLON, N.Y. 11703

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	7:09	7:28	8:08	8:27	8:04	8:17	8:57	9:05	11:31	11:28	10:53	11:04	7:19	7:32	7/14
FRI.	7:52	8:09	8:49	9:06	8:45	8:54	9:35	9:43	11:59	11:47	11:34	11:44	8:01	8:12	7/15
SAT.	8:35	8:51	9:28	9:43	9:26	9:30	10:13	10:21	—	12:20	—	12:13	8:41	8:49	7/16
SUN.	9:16	9:30	10:05	10:19	10:04	10:07	10:54	10:58	12:10	12:39	12:25	12:53	9:20	9:27	7/17
MON	9:57	10:11	10:43	10:57	10:44	10:39	11:31	11:39	12:44	1:10	1:05	1:33	9:59	10:03	7/18
TUE	10:36	10:53	11:23	11:37	11:22	11:21	—	12:13	1:23	1:49	1:44	2:11	10:39	10:43	7/19
WED	11:22	11:36	—	12:05	—	12:04	12:21	12:58	2:05	2:32	2:24	2:53	11:25	11:29	7/20
THUR	—	12:10	12:19	1:52	12:01	12:49	1:07	1:44	2:50	3:17	3:10	3:39	—	12:11	7/21

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
BayShore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	0
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
[illegible]pt	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/5	5:30	8:39
7/10	5:33	8:37
7/15	5:37	8:34
7/20	5:41	8:31
7/25	5:46	8:26
7/30	5:51	8:21

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/16	7/23	7/1	7/8

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	3:35	**10:10**	4:05	**10:35**
FRI.	4:20	**10:55**	4:50	**11:20**
SAT.	5:05	**11:40**	5:35	—
SUN.	5:50	**12:05**	6:20	**12:30**
MON.	6:40	**12:55**	7:10	**1:25**
TUES.	7:40	**1:40**	7:50	**2:15**
WED.	8:30	**2:40**	8:50	**3:05**
THURS.	9:20	**3:35**	9:45	**3:55**

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